

Journal, 1911.

Journal
1
Dec.



28.4.402 (182)
This volume is ready for binding. I have
carefully arranged the sequence of the sheets, supplied
place headings for all of them and indexed on
their margins all notes worthy of such treatment.

W. B. Dec. 31, 1911.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Jan. 1

Cloudy & mild. There is no snow but ponds and
rivers are frozen over. The city streets were muddy to-day.

Harold D. Marshall of Newtonville called yesterday afternoon
to tell me - among other things - that he had seen, only
half an hour before, 110 Robins flying over Fresh Pond
towards Arlington Heights. They came, doubtless, from
the John C. Gray place where 200 or more were seen
to-day by several different persons feeding on buckthorn
berries in the hedge bordering Fresh Pond Lane.

Remarkable
influx of
Robins

Sometime this forenoon George C. Deane found a truly
remarkable assembly of Robins on the Joseph G. Goss
farm where they were scattered all along the east path
from just behind the Hospital to Cambridge Cemetery
feeding on the berries of the privet & buckthorn bushes
that line it. In one cluster of bushes he counted
50 birds, in a group of apple trees 200. He believes

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1911.

Jan. 1

that he saw in all not less than 2000

(No 2)

Robins during the time he was walking about over this farm. Not long after leaving it he found about 200 in the Gray place on Fresh Pond Dam. About 150 were seen in one flock this same day in West Roxbury(?) by F. H. Allen. Such a winter assembly heretofore as that noted by Mr. Deane is wholly without precedent in my experience.

Jan. 2

Writing me Jan. 3, 1911, Mr. Samuel C. Palmer of Cambridge says:—"As I was sitting in the laboratory of the Univ. Museum yesterday I heard the chirp of a Robin. I looked to see the bird and saw about 100 flying over towards the Botanical Garden."

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Jan. 3

Under this date Mr. Samuel C. Palmer of
2 Corner St., Cambridge, writes me that last
autumn (that of 1910) "a pair of young Black-crowned
Night Herons came to roost in the trees of the
Norton estate just off Museum St." He adds "I
saw them there between 10/6 [October 6th] to 10/20
[October 20th] & I think they were there
longer."

T. Walton
notes on
the night
Herons in
Norton's
woods.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Jan'y 6

I have been wondering if the flock of Robins noted Robins
in our Garden during the past week on the outskirts of Cambridge might not send at least a ripple into our garden before they all left. It happened about 1 P.M. to-day when, as I was about to enter the back door of our house, I heard the flight call of a Robin. The next instant the bird appeared, followed by others of his kind, all coming from the eastward just above the tops of the trees and piling down into the Garden as soon as they reached it. Within less than a minute I counted fifty of them, probably missing a few more for they came thick & fast at our house. Subsequent counts indicated that there were not less than fifty or more than sixty. They spread about over the entire Garden & jungle, some perching in trees and bushes, others running about on the ground - particularly around the snow. They were very tame. I got within a

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

July 6
(No 2)

four yards of twenty or more that were eating berries Robins in
in a Hawthorn tree. Nearly all (at least 90%) of them the Garden
were chest-colored birds and I saw only a few fair
old red-breasted males elsewhere in the Garden.

It took them only half-an-hour to eat up practically
all the fruit of the Hawthorn, the Rock-rose apple
and the Gooseberry bushes, after which they departed,
as suddenly as they had appeared, apparently, although
I did not happen to actually see them go.

During most of the time I had them under
observation they were noisy or quite silent but
one of the adult males in the Hawthorn sang
repeatedly in subdued tones with very low and
then a single clear, loud note. I cannot remember
ever seeing so many Robins before in the Garden at this
season. Certainly it has not happened within recent years.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.
Feb. 12

Cloudy & chilly with flurries of snow. The ground is now covered with snow to a depth of about eight inches. It was bare through the most of January.

As I was walking past the Chauncy Smith Sparrow
Hawks
place on Brattle Street at 10.30 A.M. I saw an erect
♀ Sparrow Hawk perched on the highest pinnacle of
the dead top of the large white pine just to the right
of the house. A minute or two later this bird descended
by a short spiral flight to a long, horizontal, living
branch in the same tree and alighted within a
few yards of its mate which I had not before
noticed. Both birds remained motionless in croaking
attitudes for the three or four minutes more which I was
able to devote to watching them. The difference in size
between the sexes was very marked in this pair the ♂
appearing no larger than a Robin, the ♀ almost as big as a
Pigeon. Gilbert saw what was probably the same pair, in
the same tree, on January 28, mistaking them for Shrikes.
I wonder what they can find to eat at this season!

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.
Feb. 13

Looking out one of the windows at the rear of our home about eight o'clock this morning I saw three Chickadees in the lilacs. A moment later one of them began flying in a most erratic manner back and forth through the thicket, pursuing courses quite as devious and making turns almost as abrupt as any ♂ Gypsy moth engaged in a search for a mate, winding, now high, now low, through the densest possible mass of interlacing branches and moving very swiftly, yet not once hitting the smallest twig.

This was repeated several times by the same bird at intervals of a minute or less each flight lasting

perhaps half a minute and extending the whole length of the thicket which was traversed, however, in many times. I have seen Chickadees do the same thing before (but not often) and about the same time of year, if I remember rightly. What can it mean.

Chickadee
indulging in
curiously
erratic flight

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

March 2-7

During this period and I know not for how long a time before a Red Owl (*Scops asio*), has been spending his days in the box which I put up for Flickers years ago and in which they nested the first season but none again. A gray Owl had possession of it for a time in winter some or five years ago and Squirrels have occupied it from time to time.

Scrub Owl
living in
bird house
in jungle.

I first noticed this red Owl about 5 P.M. on March 2 and when his face completely filled the hole as he looked out, the remainder of him being inside the box, he showed himself in the same way at the same hour the next evening.

On March 4 he was looking out from 9 to 10 A.M. and from 4.30 to 5.30 P.M.; on the 5th from 9 to 10 A.M. and from 4 to 6 P.M.; on the 6th at 10 A.M. and from 5 to 6 P.M.

on the 7th at 1 P.M. On several of these occasions the hole shone from a clear sky first in his face. At 1 P.M. on the 7th the light was reflected from fresh fallen snow. Sometimes he keeps his eyes closed, sometimes open. They are always open when twilight is falling & then he keeps moving his head. If on so within hardly yards of the box he extends one of his legs and the eye

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 7.

Brilliantly clear with light, variable winds. Ther 4° - 34°

I came to Concord with Gilbert to-day to spend a month or more fighting gypsy and brown-tail moths. We have taken up our quarters in the old farm house but many things to the cabin later on. James reports that the thermometer fell to 4° last night but when I reached the house at 3 P.M. it stood at 34° and as there was a bright sun and almost no wind the air seemed pleasantly warm.

At 4 P.M. I started for a walk with "Larry". As I entered the cedars at the foot of the Corn I began to see tracks of Partridges crossing the road very few yards and presently six birds went up in rapid succession on the edge of the run all flying across it towards the south-east. In a belt of brush 200 yds. to the north-west, on the south side of the Corn pasture, Larry started them near. Twenty minutes later I flushed two in the Berry Pasture and shortly afterwards a single bird at the head of the Corn near the barn. Thus I saw no less than twelve different birds in less than an hour and within an area of not over fifty acres.

Twelve
Partridges
flushed

Just before sunset a Ring-necked Pheasant crossed twice very near me in the Berry Pasture. I failed to find him but saw his tracks in several places very plainly marked in fresh, soft mud, mingling with the tracks of the two Ruffed Grouse that I started there near where I heard him. The footprints of the two species were very unlike. Those of the Pheasant were much the larger & his lateral toes pointed well forward (V) while the lateral toes of the Partridge were bent down almost at right angles with the middle toe +. Thus

Pheasant
crossing

Tracks of
Partridge
Pheasant
compared

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 7
(Wed.)

Stride of the Pheasant was much the longer of the two. The Partridge sometimes makes long strides when startled & running but when walking it is very short & jerky. Some of the tracks I saw to-day had the foot prints almost touching one another for yards ($\frac{1}{2}$) and always in straight lines in one exactly in front of another.

The only other beds I noted were from Crows, perched in a poplar and two pairs of Chickadees, evidently separated.

The country looks rather wintry here. In the fields about one-half of the surface of the ground is bare or nearly so. On sunny banks and along open, traveled roads, the earth is wholly bare. In the woods the snow lies everywhere to a depth of four or five inches.

Aspect of
country

David James tells me that Robins have been about the farm most of the winter. Both in December and early in January they were abundant, in large flocks. He saw few later in the latter month and still fewer in February. On March 5 he met with a flock of about 25 near the Henry Swift farm, a mile to the west of here.

Robins
about all
winter

James has seen no Deer, nor any of their tracks, all winter long.

No Deer.

I saw a Skunk trail in the orchard and a Fox trail in Pulpit Rock woods. No Rabbit tracks anywhere.

Skunk Trail

Howard, Mass.

1911.

March 10

Snowing hard all day but most of the snow melting
as it struck the ground which was barely whitened by it

Snows
Flare

During the height of the snow-storm this forenoon
four male Bluebirds appeared in a barberry bush in
front of our house, remaining there a minute or two. I
saw them eat a number of Gooseberries which they flung
off the stems by reaching up for them with their beak.

Bluebirds
eat
Gooseberries

One bird alighted on the backboard of the house for an
instant.

A flock of eight Cedar Birds passed low over our
dooryard about 11 A.M. flying north-west.

Cedar Birds

Gilbert saw a flock of 13 Snow Buntings this
forenoon. They flew close past our barnyard towards
the southwest coming from the direction of Gooseberry
field that stretches off to the north-east of here.

Snow
Buntings

I stored two Cottontail Rabbits from this farm in
the Berry Pasture this morning. They were lying there less 30 yards
apart.

Rabbit

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 12

During a visit made to Ball's Hill this forenoon I saw at least a dozen Crows flying about over the meadows or working on the fields of in that little border in open channel of the river. Among them was the bird with the peculiar caw-caw-r-r-r cry which was so constantly in evidence last year from May to November. It is as strongly accented on the second syllable as ours and in this respect is unlike any Crows call I have ever heard from any other bird. But tells me that this particular Crow spent the winter here. He heard it not only at Ball's Hill but also half way up along the railroad on the declivity of Concord. We used to hear it about the Pile-in Place & Birch Field last autumn but were accustomed to the south or west of the farm house. It was everywhere and at all times the same peculiar cry.

Crows with
peculiar
caw or
near Ball's
Hill from
May 1910
to March
1911.

The pair of John-Bellied Nuthatches are haunting the farm as usual and the male was calling rust-rust-rust several days ago & since. I saw both birds together in the elm in front of our old barn this morning. As I was watching them first the ♂ and then the ♀ flew to the hole in which they raised their brood last year. I thought these birds entered it but could not make sure for it is in the upper side of a big horizontal beam and hence invisible from the ground. These Nuthatches camp rather widely over the place. I met with them yesterday in Prescott's Pines and I have known them to go as far as the North road as Mr. Harris. They are sure to be in the elms about our house every where, from morning to this season. The ♂ visited some hole that was put up yesterday in the elms for the first time this afternoon.

White-bellied
Nuthatches
nest last
year's nest

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 14

Clear, calm; very mild though day but cold last night.

Bluebirds and Chickadees were singing on every hand in the early morning & our Nuthatch was ~~not~~-not-not-ing. I saw nor heard any Song Sparrows or Fox Sparrows or Blackbirds, all of which should be here. Pat & Conway reported seeing about a dozen Robins scattered about over the fields between here and Concord as he walked down this morning. At 1 P.M. I saw five in one orchard. I believe all these Robins to be our local birds which have just come up from the South but there is no certainty that such is the case.

One of the men started a Partridge early this morning from the line of Barbary bushes directly in front of the farm house & within twenty yards of my window. The bird followed the road for some distance when it flew off. There are plenty of berries still clinging to these bushes.

Bluebirds,
Chickadees
& Nuthatches
singing.

Robins
seen &
scattered over
fields.

Partridge
in barberry
bush in
front of
our house.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 15

Forenoon rainy with southerly wind. Afternoon sunny with fresh Warm fair west wind. Warm all day. Snow wholly gone from roads and fields and frost coming out of the ground in many places.

The conditions were right for a heavy flight of early migrants to-day but apparently no such movement took

General
movement
of birds

place. I noticed no increase in the numbers of Robins and Bluebirds (both are still but sparingly represented)

while I listened in vain for Song Sparrows and Fox Sparrows both of which should now be here. I

did hear Blackbirds not long before sunset. They were flying northward and at a considerable distance & only three coo call notes reached my ears. These sounded like the calls of Red-wings but I could not be sure nor did

First
Blackbirds,
Red-wings,
apparently

I get my eye on the birds themselves. There were 11

finches at our bird bed a increase of 4 birds over the number seen yesterday. I think, however, that they are all birds

that have wintered here.

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1911.

March 15
(No 2.)

We are feeding the birds in the usual place viz On
in the cluster of lilacs just behind the house where bird house
we can watch them at close range from the dining room concealed.
-windows. A quantity of millet seed was thrown out on
the 8th and a pound of sweet honey in the lilacs on
the following day. This tempting feast remained undisturbed
by any birds until the 12th when a ♂ White-throated
Nuthatch, 2 Chickadees and a ♀ Downy began coming to it.
Two Juncos found the seed on the morning of the 14th &
7 appeared that afternoon. At one time this morning
there were 4 Chickadees, a pair of Nuthatches, the ♀ Downy
and 11 Juncos assembled at one time in and under
the lilacs, making a pretty and animated picture of
bird life.

I have not seen or heard a Hawk of any kind
since I came here on the 7th. Where are the Thr. Shrikes?

No Hawks

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 16

The weather turned cold and about four inches of snow fell sometime last night. To-day has been one of the very bitterest March days I have ever known with the thermometer ranging from 6° to 16° and the wind blowing a living goal out of the N.W. driving the snow across the open country in waves so that the fields were stripped nearly bare. Although the sun shone bright from a cloudless sky its rays did not melt nor even soften the snow on southern exposures or on the south side of buildings. Very few Song Sparrows and Fox Sparrows have been seen to delay their coming. The migrants already here must have had a hard day of it. I saw nothing of any of them, 2 Chickadees & a pair of Nuthatches came to one bird and 2 juncos to the bird bed. I was in the pine woods all P.M. starting 2 Partridges & having Kinglets & Chickadees there

Winter
weather

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 17

Clear & cold (10° min. 30° max.) but with only moderate wind, chiefly southerly. Snow thawing rapidly.

Despite the improvement in the weather I saw and heard only a very few birds and then all of wintering kinds. I listened in vain for Bluebirds and there were only two juncos at the seed bed. I wonder if the terrific blizzard of yesterday did not kill a good many birds.

The pair of Nuthatches came regularly to the seed, oftenest in the early morning. I watched them closely for half an hour this morning. The ♂ was digging out pieces up to the size of a large pea and carrying them away to store them in crevices in the trunks & behind scales of bark

Nuthatches
carrying
small
pieces of
seed. The
♂ gives
them to
the ♀ to
carry off.

back. He took them to different trees & in all directions usually going about 100 yards. Whenever the ♀ was with or near him he invariably employed her to carry off and cache the morsels. She took it from him without hesitation and flew, as he did, in various directions, chiefly to apple trees in the orchard. Curiously enough he would not permit her to touch the main store of supply from which he was drawing. Whenever she attempted to do so he attacked her quite viciously and drove her away. ^{that the only reason he would give her} ^{the smallest piece that he had part of seed.}

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 19

Most of the day has been cloudy with chill S.E. wind Spring-like
and it is snowing hard this evening but the early morning morning
was delightful and the most Spring-like one thus far this
year. The sun shone bright and warm quickly melting the
hoar frost that had gathered over night and up to about
ten o'clock there was little or no wind. Bluebirds were First
singing far and near in every direction, Chickadees making Bluebirds.
the phoebe call, a Nuthatch rust-rust-rust ing near the
house, a Downy Woodpecker (for the first time) in the big elm,
Crows cawing and Blue jays screaming in the distance,
I started for Ball's Hill about 8.30. Heard my first First
Song Sparrows in the brushy ground near Mr. Harris' house. Song Sparrows
Came upon six Robins and a juncos in his lane. Robins
Heard a Pheasant crowing in the meadow to which it Pheasant
looks. On reaching Holden's Hill heard two Red-shouldered Butor
Hawks screaming wild & shrill & soon saw them, one binatus

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 19

(No 2)

soaring high above me, the others (3) perched in a dead pine. Holden's Hike Red-should

A moment later they were surrounded by a throng in the Hawks

direction of North Hill. Then a Ruffed Grouse drummed Ruffed Grouse
drumming.

apparently on the east flank of Holden's Hill and a Ten Creepers
Creepers song over, full & clear, in the big oaks near me.

Next I heard the silvery whistle of juncos and looking Black Ducks

up saw a pair of Black Ducks circling low over the

woods. They alighted in the river at the head of the

Beaver Dam Rapids near some crosses that were standing

about on the bordering river. As I was trying to get

nearer than they either saw or heard me and flew.

Soon after this I heard the Sparrows chirping & making Tree Sparrows

the twinkling-g-v sound among some alders by the

river, and presently they began singing, one after

another in quick succession, thrilling my ears with their

lucid, sweet notes. There were just ten birds in the flock.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 19
(No 3)

On reaching Ball's Hill I heard another Pheasant and
saw ten Black Ducks again flying high over the river.
Chickadees were singing and a Golden-crest joined their
chorus on Ball's Hill but not in full voice. Between the
two hills I heard a Hairy Woodpecker. Someone
was shooting at muskrats with a rifle, up the
river, the popping coming closer all the time but
not reaching Ball's Hill until after I got nearly
to Benson's where I heard two Downies & saw a
Crow & 3 Chickadees. In Prescott's Pines I heard
a Pine Siskin and presently saw the bird, a solitary Pine Siskin
one on wing darting about among the tree tops.
I also heard Red-bills near here. The coming of Crows
& screaming of Blue Jays was heard over one of my ears
the whole forenoon. I saw Gray Squirrels in several
places in maples eating the opening flower buds.

Muskrat
Cherry

Redpolls

Gray Squirrels

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 19

(No 4)

The Red-shouldered Hawks at Halden's this morn
hanging about the old mill in the big chestnut. The ♂ was
perched for several minutes in a dead pine on the
hillside above the chestnuts. The ♀ alighted within
a few yards of him for a few moments but kept
for the most part in the air soaring in wide
circles, rather high, screaming almost incessantly.

He answered her every now and then from his
opening his mouth ^{very widely at each note.}
perhaps, I could not detect any difference between

his cries and hers. The two make the whole
country ring with their wild, hoarse music for
to my ears the cry of this Hawk is one of
the most musical sounds of our N. E. woods.

Both birds were in fully adult plumage with
red growth on face, white tail bands. They
did not seem to be much disturbed by my presence.

Pair of
Red-
shouldered

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 19
(Th 5)

The Northalston was at the nest for half an hour ^{White-}
or near this morning. The ♂ again kept the ♀ from ^{leaving}
alighting on it and again gave to her many
of the pieces he chiseled out of it with his sharp
bill. But on this occasion she ate very one
of them the moment she received them from
him. He did not seem to object to this
although whenever she was not near at hand
he would fly off with the pieces and
cache them in crevices & under bark as he
did on the morning of the 17th. The ♀ is
a very handsome one. Indeed her creases & under
are so nearly or completely black that we
have some difficulty in distinguishing her
from the male, especially when the light
is not good.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 20

About three inches of wet, heavy snow fell last night covering the ground very evenly and loading every twig of tree & shrub so thick the woods & thickets presented a beautiful appearance this morning. Bluebirds were singing and Robins calling near the house as I was dressing. Two or three Chickadees and the pair of Nuthatches visited the fruit to get their breakfast while we were eating ours. Not long after this a strange ^{a stranger} and gruesome tragedy was enacted in the lattice within ^{tragedy} ~~enacted~~ fifteen feet of the window. James, Gilbert and I witnessed all but its opening act which, unfortunately, escaped our notice. We were in the dining room, consulting about the day's work, when we heard the chill note of the Downy Woodpecker repeated almost incessantly & very rapidly just outside. For a minute or more we paid no attention to it. But something unusual in its quality & its import soon

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1911.

March 20
(No 2)

led me to look out and this was what I saw: On the snow among the outermost stems of the lilacs on one side of the dense thicket that they form was a ♀ Downy with extended and quivering wings. Above her hopped or rather danced, a handsome ♂ showing the red on his crest very conspicuously. He kept striking at her head with his bill and occasionally he held on for a few seconds, when the two birds fluctuated about together and perhaps rolled over once or twice, closely united. At first I thought it an amatory encounter and I am still almost certain that the ♂ attempted to secure sexual contact with the ♀ once or twice. But if so it could not have been his primary or at least sole object. For he continued to peck her head even when she was lying almost motionless on the snow. For a time she seemed to be trying to escape and for fully two

A male
Downy
Woodpecker
kills a
female.

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1911.

March 20
(No 3)

minutes her cries rose from pitiful to insistent. At length he left her and flew up into an elm where he clung for a minute or two making what seemed to me a very unusual display of the red on his occiput. Then of a sudden he dropped down on the ♀ who had meanwhile been covering in the middle of a cluster of blue stems, on the snow. Dragging her forth from this slight shelter into an open space he attacked her again, this time with obvious fury, freely raining a shower of blows on the back of her head. She seemed too weak to make any further attempt to escape and her cries, although continued, were so faint that we could only just hear them. I now realized for the first time that he was inspired by the lust of killing and not by sexual desire. It was very hard to refrain from rushing out and driving him away

3 Downy
Vireo

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 20

(No 4)

but I restrained the impulse not being willing to interrupt a tragedy of such extraordinary, if repulsive, interest. It would have made no difference anyway for this final onslaught lasted only a very few seconds. During its continuance the ♂ Downy seemed literally beside himself with rage. No Buteo Bird that I have ever watched has shown, while dealing with a mouse or sparrow, more murderous energy. After finishing the final deed he left the ♀ lying perfectly motionless and flew up again into the elm. We now went out and picked up the ♀. She was still living but unable to move. The back of her head was soaked in blood and her bare throat showed in places. She died

a little later. I skinned her and preserved her skull while I have attached to the skin. It is punctured in 10 or 12 places. The bird was in normal condition physically with healthy looking every the ovules undeveloped. The only injuries were to the skull.

♂ Downy
kills ♀

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March 20

(No 5)

There can be little or no doubt that the unfortunate
♀ Downy just referred to is the bird which we have seen
at least once and often several times, daily at the feed
in the celars on March 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17. No ♂ has
been seen with her until this morning although there was
one drumming in the big elm and afterwards climbing up
a locust tree in front of the house yesterday morning.
What led up to the tragedy above described can only
be conjectured. My guess is that the ♀ came to the
feed for her usual breakfast and while getting it was
attacked by the ♂ who at first may have merely intended
to drive her away. She may have angered him by some
show of resistance. I do not think that either bird could
have been there long before the crisis began for I had been in
the room for fully half an hour before this and had
looked out frequently to consider the possibilities & possibilities.

♂ Downy
March 20

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1911.

March 20
(No 6)

as they flitted about the nest which Gilbert had been ^{2 Downy}
doing the same thing for some time before I came down ^{birds 9.}
as he was preparing the table for our breakfast.

I am inclined to think that the ♀ was the bird
which has nested for several years past in the
dead limb of the tall elm that shades the road shed
at the east end of the house and that the ♂ who
murdered her was not her mate. My reasons for
so thinking are (1) because she has been here so
constantly ever since the 12th and (2) because the
♂ was not seen about the place previous to yesterday.
Of course both surmises may be wrong. During previous
years the breeding pair have always shared on good
terms with ^{each} other and have been accustomed to
feed quite amicably at the nest, as far as I can
remember (but not both on at the same time)

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 20

(No 7)

We spent most of the day at Ball's Hill.

Hitherto
and
Gossander

While there I saw a pair of Goldeneyes flying down river past the cabin and a pair of Gossanders in the water. The latter birds rose from the surface of the water about 100 yards above the cabin as I came in sight about noon. & flew off up river. An hour later I saw them again, swimming close to shore just above Swan's Knoll. The drake was a fine one, in full plumage. On the second occasion they took flight half a minute after I caught sight of them although I was 200 yards away and almost perfectly screened by intervening trees & brush.

Heard Rusty Blackbirds jingling in Cedar P.M.

Rusty
Blackbirds

Foxglove Crows strutting about on in across river.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 22

Partly sunny, largely cloudy, Rain at evening. Very warm after 10 a. m. (ther. rising to 58°), although the ground from last night. Light southerly to easterly wind. Snow & ice melting fast, even in woods.

Yesterday was cold with blustering N. W. wind and very little bird or other life in evidence, even in sheltered woods. To-day was very mild and spring. Air with superabundant life of various kinds.

At breakfast time I saw collected at one third bird box Box Sparrows allies.

Sparrows, 6 juncos, 2 Nuthatches, 3 Chickadees, white & Robins, all

hard on red-breasted, black-headed nobs, were running about over the grassy bank in front of the house. When I started out a little later bluebirds were hovering in several directions &

Robins calling in the orchard. A Pheasant roamed in the thicket.

At Back Field, about 9 a. m., I saw a large flock of Crows Blackbirds flying over towards the N. E. at a height of flying on nigrescens perhaps 100 feet, evidently migrating. I counted 50 birds.

Not long after this I heard the spring flight call of a Cowbird allies. Cowbird given several times, a little later the

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March 22
(No 2.)

air seemed filled for an hour of half a minute or more Refalls
by the ~~source~~ songs of Red-bells. I failed to see them
but judged by the sound of their voices that there were
a large number & that they were on wing. This singing continued

Butterflies were out in numbers about noon and
later. One that I saw was of one kind the large,
ragged-winged, orange-brown species which usually emerges
from its winter quarters about this time. I shot found
scores of them fluttering against the inside of the windows
in the wood shed trying to get out.

First
Butterflies

Just after dinner one of the men showed me the
fresh track of a very large Deer in North Field.

Deer in
North Field.

I think "Loring" must have started it this forenoon.

It had come up by the spring & crossed the road
with long beams leaving beautifully clear foot prints

("dew claws" theory) in snow & mud.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 23

Clear & cold with strong, fresh north west wind. Ther 22° min.

Despite the high, cold wind that raged about the old farm house all day we saw a really extraordinary number of birds there. Among these were 12 Fox Sparrows 4 juncos & 1 Song Sparrow collected at the dead bird and 13 Robins in a tree in the down yard. The ♂ Downy the ♂ Redstart & 3 Chickadees came to the front. The Fox Sparrows sang gleefully at times.

Great
numbers of
birds

Fox Sparrows,
Juncos,
Robins etc.

About 1 P.M. I heard a sudden uproar of Blackbird voices. Hurrying to the nearest window I saw an enormous flock of Crested Blackbirds and Red-wings in the tops of the two tall elms just to the west of the house. They were very evenly distributed throughout both trees looking exactly like a crop, saddle point clinging to almost every small branch and twig. Gilbert & I counted them several times making the total number about 170! About two-thirds were Crested Blackbirds and one-third Red-wings.

Great
mixed flock
of
Crested Blackbirds
&
Red-wings

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 23
(no 2.)

As the wind was blowing half a gale at the time they had obvious difficulty in clinging to their singing posture yet they remained fully exposed to its force in under tree tops for nearly ten minutes during which scarce a single bird shifted its position. The Red-wings sang almost incessantly, their voices coming in successive bursts which drowned the roaring of the wind & sang out in a wild, jubilant chorus. This chorus singing of the Red-wings in early spring always thrills & delights me. The Crow Blackbirds added their hoarse or creaking notes to the general clamor from time to time. I cannot remember seeing so large a mixed flock of Blackbirds before for many years.

While I was in Birch Field this forenoon a flock of 10 Snow Buntings flew over towards the north-west, twittering softly.

Crow Blackbirds
+
Red-wings

Snow
Bunting

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 26

Clear, calm, warm. Ther. rose to 60°

I spent the day in Cambridge but Gilbert was at the Farm. He saw great numbers of Fox Sparrows there, at least 50, he thinks. They were restless every where over the place and a constant procession of them visited the bird box over the house. It is common also than Song Sparrows. He expects a marked increase in the number of Juncos.

Big flight
Fox Sparrows

" 27

Returned to Concord this afternoon. The weather mild & rainy. Saw at least a dozen Song Sparrows while driving down from Concord. There must have been a general arrival of them either yesterday or to-day.

See acc. of
Song Sparrows.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 28

Chiefly cloudy. Cool with strong, harsh north-west wind.

Pat called me out at 7 a. m. to see a Phoebe

Finch
Phoebe

which had just flown into the wood shed, he said. I found (and left) it in the loft of the shed fluttering against the windows. A few minutes later it went out.

As I was in the orchard about 10 a. m. I heard a strange bird note repeated half a dozen times or more evidently by a bird passing overhead across the west. It was not unlike the whistle of the Least Flycatcher but much louder & stronger. It is not altogether new to me for I remember hearing a precisely similar call several years ago in autumn. On that occasion I think I saw the bird flying high over the river marshes near the Mill. It looked like a Finch of some kind. I wonder if it could be an Irish Linnet.

Strong
call note
heard

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 28

(No 2)

Nothing has been seen of the ♀ *Neotoma* at the Tarn since the 20th until this morning when she appeared at the Tent in company with her mate remaining there with him for fifteen or twenty minutes. As on former occasions this spring he would not allow her to actually pass on the Tent threatening her whenever she approached it nearer than two or three feet yet he gave her most of the pieces he dug out of the Camp. She disposed of all that she received from him by placing them in holes or crevices in the back of the barrel two in front of the barrel in which the Tent Camp is now hanging. He cached a number of them himself in the same way. Some were put by both birds in crevices not over three or four feet above or below the Camp itself. Once I saw the male thrust a piece into a crevice & then almost immediately remove & eat it.

White-bellied

Neotoma

Strong

Swat

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 29

Clear with light breezes to easterly winds. Deliciously warm though dry but ground had frozen on services.

For two or three hours this morning and again in late afternoon the air was filled with the sweet, plaintive bird music peculiar to this season. As the season it seemed to come from every where, but was most of it concentrated then by Fox Sparrows, Song Sparrows & Bluebirds. The Fox Sparrows literally swarmed. There must have been 50 or 60 of them in the orchard & garden & there was almost a noisy chorus. Yet I did not meet with either species elsewhere.

At Ball's Hill I heard Song Sparrows & Red-wings singing everywhere about the edges of the pine meadows. A Phoebe sang all the forenoon near the Coburns. He bled in the woods.

A ♂ Cow-bird appeared on the shed bird feeder over windows this morning & stayed there about ten minutes eating millet feed in company with Fox Sparrows & Juncos.

Plaintive
bird music
of
early spring

Fox Sparrows
Song "
Juncos
Bluebirds

Cow-bird
eating
millet feed

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 30

Alternating clouds & sunshine. Cool with ebbing south wind. First
Sparrows.

Toy Sparrows singing gloriously all about the house in the early morning and again just before sunset, one following another in quick succession so that the sound of their rich voices was almost perfectly continuous for minutes at a time. Occasionally one would break in on another but this was not usual. It was a treat to hear them to such advantage as I sat in my arm chair by the fire. It was not necessary to open windows to get the entire song. Many of them sang on the ground, in the intervals of feeding at the bird bed on the front balcony. There were 16 there at once.

Returning from Ball's Hill at 5 P.M. I was surprised First
to hear a number of Wood Frogs in full cry in the Wood
pool at the foot of the orchard slope although fully two Frogs
thirds of it is still encased in thick winter ice.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

April 3

As I was walking down Brattle Street about 10.30 this Sparses
morning I saw the pair of Sparses Hawks in the chimney blow
Smith place, the ♀ circling just above the trees, then & preparing to
perched in the big pine with the dead top that stands above nest on
the house on the south of it. near in
of the artificial pond, Smith place. just as I came
aboard of the house the ♂ bird flew from the end of the
branch on which he had been sitting to the trunk of the
pine, entering a hole on its south side about 30 feet above
the ground. I had noticed this hole before and had wondered
if the Sparses Hawks might not be intending to nest in it.
They had just reared a brood of young which were seen just after leaving the nest by Mr. Deane.
It looks perfectly round and in every respect like a Flicker's
hole which, no doubt, it was originally. I had it under
observation for two or three minutes after the ♂ Hawk went
into it but did not see him reappear. I now believe that
it must have been occupied as a nesting place by the pair of
Sparses Hawks that I saw last spring (last of 1910) preparing
their love flights over and around our grounds.

Bethel, Maine

1911.

April 3-6

I spent April 3, 4 & 5 at the Gehring's home in Bethel, reaching there on the night of the 2nd and leaving to return to Cambridge on the morning of the 6th. There was practically no snow at Portland and only a few inches from there to South Paris beyond which it overspread the entire country. At Bethel it was 2 feet deep in the open fields & along streets and from 3 to 4 feet everywhere in the woods no bare ground being visible anywhere seen under a few of the dense evergreens which had been lying as undisturbed for months past. Never have I seen the conditions so backward before in this season. The only spring birds I noted were Crows which were numerous everywhere having arrived, I was told, only a day or two before I did. I started about 20 from the mouth of an open drain in Dr. Gehring's field and saw others in his orchard pulling frozen apples to pieces and apparently devouring the pulp. Still others were seen eating

Deep snow

Crows

Bethel, Maine.

1911.

Apr 3-6
(see 2)

Sumner Green near his house. During my car ride to Bethel Crows on the morning of the 6th there was some a number when Crows were not in sight. Most of them were single birds engaged in stirring food on the snow-covered fields and constantly looking for food. I must have seen at least 200.

Perhaps I should class, also, as a Spring bird an adult

Red-shouldered
Hawk.

Red-shouldered Hawk which appeared on the morning of the

4th soaring over the Selwings' orchard. As I was driving on

about of the 6th I saw a Pileated woodpecker flying low over this farm orchard, undulating slightly, like a Flicker.

Pileated
woodpecker

Three Chickadees, a Downy woodpecker and a Hairy woodpecker came repeatedly to their berry in our elm near the house.

Other birds

A Blue jay came to it and ate of it on the 3rd.

The birds seemed almost barren of animal life. During a

three mile tramp through them on the 4th I failed to see or hear a bird of any kind or even a Red Squirrel; but the next afternoon I heard Chickadees & Golden-crooks in the Glen Woods.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 9

Snow began falling soon after night-fall last evening. At day-break this morning it covered the ground to a depth of 5 inches and loaded the branches of the trees. It continued to fall fitfully through the forenoon. The afternoon was sunny & rather mild but the ground continued firm - covered up after on sheltered banks facing the sunsets. My foreman, Jones, drove to Concord village in a sleigh this forenoon.

April
snow storm.

Yesterday there were camp activities from birds about. To-day the whole country was flooded with them. I believe that very many which had passed farther north returned during last night as sometimes happens when there is a sudden change to winter conditions at this season. The number at our feed bird increased steadily through the forenoon. At breakfast time there were not more than 40 all told. About noon I counted 74 Fox Sparrows & over 30 Juncos on the ground at once. With these in neighboring trees there must have been over 80 Fox Sparrows and 40 Juncos. There were also at least 5 Robins and 4 or 5 Song Sparrows, a 8 Starling, and a 8 Downy, 8 Nuthatch & 2 Chickadees at the feed. A Savannah Sparrow scolded about the edge of the feed bird but seemed afraid to enter it. We put a lot of seed in the open fenced wood shed which for a time was alive with birds. The Robins, Fox Sparrows, Juncos & Song Sparrows entered it freely & all these Sparrows also went in under the feed bird. There was practically continuous singing on the part of Fox Sparrows & Juncos from day-break to evening twilight - a delightful feast of delightful music. The Fox Sparrows sang freely on the ground. They scratched incessantly with it as if they had been eating them. Also they sang incessantly chasing one another & rising high to high into the air. The Song Sparrows scratched a little the Juncos not at all. The Robins sang for single worms & got a few. It was a most animated & interesting scene & I watched it all forenoon.

7 loads of
birds

Over 100
birds at
our feed
bird!

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 9
(No 2)

In the afternoon I went to Ball's this via Davis Hill returning via Harkin's Hill & Harris' pasture. The snow was well deep in the woods & half that in open fields. Many of the trees, especially pines, were still covered with it. I saw on Ball's Fox Sparrows everywhere & Robins in many places.

Met with 8 Hairy Woodpeckers. 6 of them along the edge of the river hopping about on the ground within a foot or two of the water. There were 5- Chockers in the Bassett Meadows perched on bushes or used stalks over shallow water to which they kept flying down apparently to pick up floating insects. The afternoon then lay warm here & there there was no wind. The creek along the water was alive with Song Sparrows & in it I saw one Swamp Sparrow, a Canada duck-plumaged bird with brownish crown. At Benson's Knoll I noted 16

Redpolls feeding in the top of a grey Birch. A solitary Goldfinch perched on a weed stalk in the meadows showed several patches of bright yellow bellows & some black about the head, being already in transition between winter & summer dress. A 5 Head Hawk was flying about

over Great Meadows and a Red-bellied Gull diving in the river at the foot of Benson's Knoll. Two Red-wings only were singing in the meadows, but I

saw half a dozen Rusty Blackbirds working about on a grassy stretch on the edge of the water. On the way home I kept starting Fox Sparrows in almost every thicket. Sometimes a dozen or more would be all at once from the ground with a sudden loud whirring sound like a bag of seeds. In the Bassett Thom 'honey' perched two Postulaps. One of them tried in an oak & sat staring at me only 30 yds. off with neck stretched up. Altogether it was a delightfully interesting walk

Went to
Ball's Hill

Hairy
Woodpecker.
Chockers

First
Swamp Sparrow.
Redpolls.
Goldfinch.

Head H.
Gull.

Fox Sparrows

Postulaps

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 17

Reuff's Grouse have been haunting the brush behind the old Barrett barn and the lane just in front of it ever since I came to Concord some months or more ago.

Reuff's
Grouse
fighting

Early this morning my friends Mr. & Mrs. William Stone were some staying with me at the farm house saw from their windows a brief fight between two birds on the ground at the east end of our close yard close to the wall that separates it from the head of the lane. Mr. Stone called me at once but before I could put on a few clothes & get to a window the fracas had come to an end. He has kindly written out his impressions of it in the following words: -

"About 6 A.M. on April 17th I was hastily summoned by my sheep-eyed wife out of your comfortable bed to see a couple of large birds in the yard engaged in some quite unusual occupation. A glimmer showed that

Concord, Mass.

1911.
April 17
(No 2)

They were not here, certainly, but a pair of fine cock
Partridges either at the beginning or end of a difference of
opinion. The bird on the right was evidently the aggressor.
The other assumed what seemed an attitude of defiance
with an apparent unwillingness either to continue or begin a
fight. This bird sat nicely upright on his back, bending
slightly forward at an angle like this \angle & was
motionless throughout the whole controversy till the final
disengagement. He sat rigidly still but keenly alert,
keeping watch on the movements of his adversary, who with
head bowed like a fighting cock, pecked at the ground
& made constant quick little arcs of circles back & forth
in front. The position of this bird's body was horizontal
& simulated exactly [that of] the Green yard fowl in a
fight. Every few moments he made quick, short advances
as if to hurl himself against the other but each time

Ruffed Grouse

Fighting

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 17
(no 3)

thought better of his adversary's ground and continued his Ruffed
Grouse
toes waving back and forth. This apparent advance fighting
to spring, however, seemed to cause the upright bird to
assume a position nearer the vertex, until as I looked
through the bird glasses he turned his head sharply to
see if all was clear in the rear, and after a few moments
more turned and walked away perhaps 8 or 10 feet when
he was again brought to bay by his aggressor who quickly
ran up to him menacing as before. On turning a second
time he was permitted to go away, displaying behind a
stem well up to which the victor made another rapid
charge. Having been made sure that victory was secure he
hunched with tail & head erect strutted proudly & confidently
back, evidently very well pleased with himself until he too
disappeared behind an opposite wall, ready, no doubt to
draw another contest from his prisoner."

(From Letter of William Stearn to W. A. dated April 20, 1911/)

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 24

The weather has been cold through the entire month thus far & especially so of late. The temperature falls to 25° or 26° nearly every night & the ground is hard frozen almost every morning. This morning the boat canal at Balls Bluff was frozen over up to 9 a.m. Saw where Pat had broken & chained through in his crossing. Vegetation is then on fine looks late according to the flowers & gardeners. The maples & elms even in full blossom to-day for the first time. Most of the grass lands are as green & seen as in early March but a touch of green has appeared within the past few days on southern slopes, in our deer yard & in a few spots on the river meadows.

Spring birds have been coming late & dribbling in, a few at a time. There has been no real "rush" of any of them as yet. Field Sparrows & Junco's still begin. Blue Jays are exceedingly scarce. Ruffed Grouse are very numerous, especially at the Farm.

A Fish Hawk is frequenting the river opposite Balls Bluff. Fish Hawk I see him there almost daily circling & hovering. This morning he caught a large fish and bore it off over towards the S.W. I could see that it had real pointed fins. Its looked like a Perch.

Belted has been here from sometime but they have not begun pumping yet. One haunts the rocky edge of the river on the Balls Bluff shore. As I walked along the path this morning he kept flitting on ahead of me just as Sparrows & Robin sometimes do, making very short flights. I saw him there from North Gate to beyond the island where he sought a final refuge on one island running there a long time skulking about among the maples & flowering canes looking exactly like a duck (not a Mallard).

Belted
duck

Belted

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 25

Clear & warm with cool east wind.

The ♂ Downy Woodpecker who murdered a female presumably
his mate on March 20th last has been frequenting the trees
about the farm house ever since coming regularly several times
each day to feed on suet and drinking frequently every
morning frequently in the hope of thereby securing
another wife. But no second female has appeared thus far.

The ♂, nevertheless, began work on a new nest this morning
in the under side of the dead branch of the elm at the
east end of the covered shed. He worked steadily all the
forenoon and by noon he had carried the hole in so far that
only the hinder half of his body showed as he worked. There
are seven other holes, each one of which has been used by the
pair in former years, in this same branch, always with success
in securing their broods. Each hole has been enlarged the
following autumn to serve for a winter roosting place.

Downy
Woodpecker

Concord, Mass.

1911,

May 4

Clear with cold N. W. wind. Ther. 25° at sunrise (Birds for me)

After spending a week in Cambridge I returned to Concord this morning to find the general aspect of the country considerably changed. Apple trees, choke cherry and Crabapple bushes are green with young foliage. Shad bush is almost in bloom. Plum trees are white with blossoms. Of birds not seen before this year I noted a Towhee, a King Bird, a Great Flycatcher and four Barn Swallows. Also 1 Martin

Vegetation.

While I was at the Totten place about 6 P.M. a very small, high-colored & sharp-shinned Hawk alighted among dense foliage in a road from within 30 yards of me and sat there several minutes, evidently waiting for prey. At length he crossed an open space with the precision understanding, bounding flight often checked by this sparrow and alighted on the stem of a tree by the road. As he did so a Song Sparrow came down into some bushes within a foot of him. Instantly a loud chirping outcry burst he seemed not to notice it. Finally he crossed the road & me. He was flying straight

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Cum gratia, Mass.

1911.

May 4
(1821)

and slowly at a height of about forty feet. A dozen or more Robins rose from various parts of the field on account he came fairly in sight and made off high in air in various directions with shield, & what was but he paid not the least attention to them. During the evening that they had the long a state of him to be worth pursuing.

Just as I was leaving the Ritten place a Screech Owl uttered the low song in the direction of Burrows & apparently in the trees along the road where it dips into the first bottom.

Low song
of
Screech Owl

I heard him a dozen times or more afterwards when I was in our peach orchard and he apparently in the same place as at first. His long rolling cry (Bub-bub-bub-bub-bub-bub), sounded very like the peculiar throbbing made by automobiles.

It was seldom given much of time then ever away from a few minutes. When he began in the house was still when the horizon & shining brightly.

Cornwall, Mass.

1911.
May 13

Clear & very warm with fresh west wind

A number of Speers arrived this morning but no great number of individuals. Apparently it was the nearest approach to a pronounced bird wave that we have had this season. Hitherto the birds have been merely drifting in, a very faint at a time with a marked scarcity of all except summer resident kinds. Several northern breeding ~~birds~~ ^{species} due before this have not as yet appeared at all and of those others I have noted only a very few.

Bird wave
of
migrants

Just as Pat Flannery started out in our dog to cross the river from Boies Hill on his way home late this afternoon a Spectled Sandpiper alighted on the high stem of the boat and was carried a distance of 15 or 20 feet before taking wing again.

Spectled
Sandpiper
alighted on
moving boat

Pat ceased moving just as the bird dropped on the moving plank within six feet of him. Just before this he had given out or two Phalaris with his oars. He called out to me immediately afterwards when I heard the Sandpiper but did not see it.

Lancaster, Mass.

1911.

May 21

Clear and hot (88°) with light southerly breeze.

During a visit which I made with John B. Hooper

Courtside of

Spotted

Sandpipers

this forenoon to the artificial pond where his ducks and

geese are kept in summer we saw three Spotted Sandpipers

engaged in courtship. One which was evidently a female

kept, for the most part, in advance of the other two which

were apparently males, "showing off". First one and then

the other would make a short, smooth, rather slow, gliding run

after & perhaps past the female. Just before starting the bird

usually (but not invariably) half opened its wings and inflated

its plumage (not its body) to such an extent that it looked

as big as an Upland Plover. At the same time it threw back

its head and puffed out its chest which instantly seemed to

get whiter and sometimes to expand into a broad white patch

as large as a wild rose or larger. Sometimes it presented

the appearance just described during the entire run which

Lancaster, Mass.

1911.

May 21
(No 2)

was made nearly straight and fairly extended twenty yards in length) but rather of course the wings were alternately spread and closed and the chest expanded and contracted, the whole while blossoming and then as unfolding flower and then disappearing to quickly reappear again. The two male birds seemed to be displaying this ritual charm in a spirit of friendly competition, after the manner of John the & Sordana's duels, for they did not once threaten one another in any way. They performed in silence for the most part although I heard a little feet-crusting when they were on the ground and occasionally one would rise on wing and give the fight song as it flattered & flattered, along over the nearby flat. The female was chiefly engaged in feeding and seemed to pay little or no attention to the males. We thought that the officious and disapproving of the very conspicuous which was due to the alternate rising and falling of the passage of the chase.

Courtskip
of
Spotted
Sandpipers

Concord, Mass.

1911.
May 26

Breezy with cool east wind.

About 8 A. M. I was surprised to find a female Black-brown
Waxwing
bird hopping about in open cultivated
land where we have had our vegetable garden for ten years.
It is directly in front of the old barn on the
T. cars. The ground was ploughed, mowed & harvested a few
weeks ago. Much of the massive remains uncovered and
the Waxwing seemed especially interested in some of the
larger fragments which she inspected closely, one after another.
From several of them she drew, after long & energetic digging,
what I think must have been either snail or horse hairs
but which were too fine for me to see although I was within a

few yards & used my glass. I could see, however, that she had
a small bunch of thin fibers looking like hair in her bill
when at length she flew away from the top of the open
knoll towards the woods to the eastward. On reaching
them she rose above the tops of the tallest pines dropping
out of sight behind them apparently only near Purple Heron
where I heard a male singing a little later. I estimated
her flight for a total distance of over two hundred yards.

Concord, Mass.

1911.
May 26
(Wed.)

A pair of Blue jays have nested and reared young on the south side of Ball's Hill within a few yards of one or another of my cabins almost if not quite every year since 1892. Their nest this year is in a pine about 30 yards from the well house. One may look directly down on or into it from a foot path just above for it is only about 6 feet above the ground & the hill side here very steeply. Whenever I approach it closely the sitting bird flattens her body and gradually raises her bill until it points nearly straight up. The mate is usually near at hand. I never hear either bird screaming near the nest but on

Blue jays
at
nest near
cabin at
Ball's Hill

(the ♂ I think) habitually indulges in hoarse cries. A few days ago he mimicked the Red-shouldered, the Broad-winged & the Cooper's Hawks and to-day, within an hour of a minute, he gave my perfect imitations of the phoe-e-o of the Red-shouldered, the boodling springing of the Cooper's and the shrill cl-cl-cl-cl of the Sparrow Hawk. He must have been near at the

Concord, Mass.

1911.

May 26
(ha 3)

Time for I was in plain view of the nest & very near it, working along the path. Strange to say a pair of Robins had descended in carrying two eggs in a nest in a pine not more than twenty yards from the Blue Jay's nest. This young took flight this afternoon. This nest had only two eggs when we first noticed it. At about this time the Jays were beginning their nest. I've several days after this there were frequent entries from the Robins which we have repeatedly chasing the Jays away from the ^{neighborhood of} nest. Whether or not the Jays seriously attempted to take it I do not know. Perhaps they may have descended in getting back of the eggs for Robins almost always lay under them.

Nest of
Blue Jays
at
Barn Hill

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 15

Clear & cool with rather fresh north-west wind.

To Concord from Cambridge this morning reaching
Ball's Hill about 9 o'clock. A Black & white Cuckoo, a
Chestnut-sided Warbler, a Maryland Yellow-throat, a
House Wren & a Red-breasted Grosbeak were singing
and a Veery was calling in the little pine of wood by
the stone boat house on the Bedford shore. As we
crossed the river we heard Red-wings & Swamp Sparrows
in song. On Ball's Hill on our way I heard a
Cuckoo, Solitary Vireo, Maryland Yellow-throat, Song
Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows and Grosbeak; On Blackstone
Ridge a Red-eyed Vireo, a Towhee, an Oven-bird,
a Chestnut-sided Warbler & a House Wren; on Davis
Hill a Red-eye and a Pine Siskin; on Fair Ridge
2 Black-burnian Warblers and on Black-throated
Green Warbler.

Birds
noted in
Ball's Hill
Region

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 15
(No 2)

North
Concord

Most of the forenoon was devoted to inspecting the different pieces of woodland between the river & the farm with a view to ascertaining the status of mother conditions. They are infinitely better than at this time last year and indeed very encouraging. The woods on the Bedford shore are in fine shape: the larger trees were covered of juncos & brown tail nests & long-footed last autumn & spring but no spearing was done. Davis Hill was thoroughly sprayed by Duran June 5-7. The foliage there is perfect save for damage on the back side where many trees are stripped or nearly so. The woods stretching from Benson's Knoll back to Pin Point shed show little or no damage; Duran sprayed them in May. Blakewell Ridge is badly eaten & Holden's Hill almost stripped; nothing was done there. Davis Hill was partially sprayed by Duran. The forest has been done with or is better than.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 15
(no 3)

Bird Field is in excellent shape with no signs
of any damage; Dunes Sprung is in May. The soils
about the Spring and in Puffer Rock woods were tested
at the same time and are equally sound. Those in
the trees below the park orchard and on the west
of the barn are done with perfect safety. They too
were Sprung. Everywhere in and about the
collocated land at the Farm the trees are in
excellent condition. Practically all of the work
has been Sprung and still shows lead. The Bay Poston
is in almost perfect condition although with
spraying was done there. We cut off all the Green-
tail with last March, however. The thorough spraying
about the Farm & elsewhere has been a perfect
success this year. Probably because we have used a

strong lead solution (1 to 5). Last year it was a failure
in any many places & was not wholly successful.

Wash.
Concord

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 15
(No 4)

Later in May "winter" caterpillars prepared by Raif
were first sent by Richardson in their places in our
woods viz. on Holden's Hill, in Birch Island woods
and at the base of the Kelleys place. They were also
collected elsewhere in Concord. Richardson tells me
to-night that they have spread the disease extensively
and that it is fairly raging in some localities
especially along the old Bigelow's road about a mile
south-west of here where the gypsy larvae are
"dying by myriads". He adds that on Tuesday last
(13th) he & Raif visited Holden's Hill and found
large numbers of winter and dying caterpillars there.
I saw none to-day either there or at Kelleys place.
I did not visit the Birch Island woods.
In many places the gypsy larvae were not
feeding & otherwise inactive but all looked healthy.

Notes
Conditions

Concord, Mass.

1911

June 15
(Wed)

It is perfectly evident now that the extensive and thorough spraying with a strong solution of arsenate of lead (1 lb. to 5 gallons of water) which has been done at the Farm this year has not resulted in any harm whatever to the bird life. We have any of the birds which were here before the spraying began deserted the trees or shrubbery which they had chosen for their summer haunts. I took a careful census of them the day before the opening one of our campaigns against the warblers and counted the results closely for nearly two weeks afterwards without missing a single individual bird. On returning to the place to-day, after an absence of about two weeks (May 31 - June 15) I find them practically all in their accustomed stations. Yet the

has effects
of spraying
on the
birds,

foreign is, as I have said, strictly correct, with the blue jays last. I don't give any apprehension was present, the answer.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 16

Morning sunny; afternoon cloudy with two heavy showers.

North
Concord
Cobles
Co. N.Y.

This forenoon J. C. Melvin took us first to Concord
village, up to Cobles village by way of the Middlebury
School and finally back to the farm by the country
road on which we live (Monument Street). The woods
along the Assabet ^{for at least a mile} ~~about~~ its mouth are badly damaged
by water frosts and all the way thence to Cobles
village they are, for the most part, well-nigh stripped
of foliage as are many orchards, also. On the return
ride by the more country road we found similar
conditions almost to the Concord line the side
of which the woods showed little or no damage
while the orchard trees exhibited none at all.
Mr. Robbins told us that the situation in Cobles
is far worse than it has ever been before. In one
part of Concord it is better than for other years past.

Concord, Mass

1911.

June 16
(Sun 2)

Yesterday & to-day the conditions were favorable for
free singing of birds and their music was incessant and

Birds
noted at
the time.

delightful everywhere about our farm buildings & in
the neighboring fields and woodland. Noting only such
birds as were seen or heard within 100 yards of our house.

I made the following list: Bluebird pair building nest
nest in box front of house.

Robin 3x; Cat-bird 2x, 1 seen; Whitethroats, collecting food & talking
at water big elm by road; Yellow Warbler, 2x in garden;

Chipping Sparrow 1x; Redstart 3x, from barn along Com;

Green Bird, 2x; Red-eyed Vireo, 2x, nest 2 eggs & 1 chick in

woodland; Solitary Vireo 1x near barn; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1x,

Scarlet Tanager 1x near house; Adelie Bird 2; Tree Swallow nest
with young one dead, in garden (at Kitter's place);

Barn Swallow, pair feeding young in nest in one barn;

Goldfinch 1x; Purple Finch 1x, Song Sparrow 1x front of
(1 Rose breasted Grosbeak 1x; 1 Indigo Bird 1x,
house; Chipping 4 or 5; Cardinal 1x, pair feeding

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 16
(Sat)

young in hollow sticks carried to apple tree in orchard (they had
successfully in down sticks last year); Phoebe, 1 with nest
under eave in shed; Wood Pewee 2 in dense vine brush;
Great Pewee 4 birds, 2 nests (one with young bird sitting on egg)
in orchard near of brush; Bobolink 2 & 3 new
nests (one with calling young) in dense within 25 yards of house
& at its rear; Black-bird Cuckoo 1; Yellow-bird Cuckoo 1;

Flicker, 2; Jay 1; Chipping Swift (5) & heard in chimney
Herring-gull & sweeping down over of in house
at night; Gray Hawk, 1 in house front of house;

Hopewell, 1; at night; Pheasant 1; Puffin 1;
Broad-winged Hawk 1 heard over house;
in the rear; Night Heron, 1 flying over house

Found pond in Berry Pasture on evening of the 16th
he saw 38 species besides with others not 300 yards away
In the Berry Pasture I heard or saw 2 Robins,

2 Cat-birds, 4 Chestnut-sided Towhees, 1 Maryland

Yellow-throat, 1 Purple Finch, 2 Song Sparrows,
1 Towhee, 1 Indigo Bird, 1 Black-bird Cuckoo,
1 Yellow-bird Cuckoo, 1 Flicker, 1 Pheasant, 1 Pouter,

Ocean voyage.

Montreal to Liverpool

1911.

June 24
to
July 1.

I left Montreal in the White Star liner "Laurentic" on the morning of

June 24th and reached Liverpool late in the afternoon of July 1st.

During most of the voyage the weather was clear and cool & we had only two days (29th & 30th) when cloudiness prevented our sunbathing. There was no dense fog and the sea was smooth the whole way with moderate following winds, chiefly S.W.

The first day was spent running down the St. Lawrence to Quebec which we reached in the forenoon (8.30 P.M.). The river thus far was nearly straight & about a mile in average width; its shores were low and flat with a few high hills or low mountains rising in the distance. Most of the bordering lands were under cultivation with scattered houses & towns. Altogether the scenery was tame & uninteresting. Nor were there many birds. In mossy places along the shores I saw a few Red-winged & Cow Blackbirds, flying over the river a good many Crows, a few Herring Gulls & one Pin Siskin. A Night Hawk was flying over Quebec at evening. Late in the afternoon great numbers of large mosquitoes having dull green-brown bodies came aboard & several of the passengers were bitten by them.

Montreal to
Quebec

Birds

Green
mosquitoes.

Ocean Voyage.

Montreal to Liverpool

1911.

Jan 24
to
July 1
(no 2)

Most of our daylight run on the 25th was from Father Point to Cape Gaspe with the Gaspe Peninsula on our right about 8 miles off and the north shore on the left showing only very dimly in the far distance. Just before sunset we were off Cape Gaspe with Perce Rock and Bonaventure Island faintly visible beyond it. To the north Long Anticosti showing very plainly, especially at its south-eastern extremity where I could see plainly, through my glass, the cliff where the Gannets were nesting in 1881 and where we made our first landing that summer. Comparatively few birds were in sight to-day. Indeed I saw only five or six Gannets and 15 or 20 Herring Gulls. I had expected to see Northern Phalaropes and Herring Gulls but none were noted. A long whole Sparrow a mile or more away to the southward when we were off Cape Gaspe. There was a pretty, but not especially brilliant, sunset. Altogether the day proved less interesting than I had anticipated but it was good to see Anticosti and the Gaspe shores again, after thirty years.

Gulf of
St Lawrence
Old Scum
revisited.
Cape Gaspe,
Perce Rock,
Bonaventure Is.
Anticosti
Birds
Gannets &
Herring Gulls

Ocean voyage.

Montreal to Saint-Paul.

1911.

June 24
to
July 1
(No 3)

When I came on deck on the morning of the 26th we were passing Cape Ray which showed distinctly in the brilliant clear air & sunlight at a distance of about ten miles. During the remainder of the day we steamed eastward along the south coast of Newfoundland at distances from the land varying with the directions of the coast line from eight or ten to twenty or many miles passing down faces of the bold precipitous or craggy islands within these miles or less. Daylight was falling when we reached Cape Race and, changing our course to about north-east, started out into the open ocean, heading straight for the northern end of Ireland. I had expected to go to the harbor of Newfoundland through the Straits of Belle Isle but this, we were assured, was impossible because of the fact that they were choked from end to end with heavy fields of floe ice.

The southern part of Newfoundland, as I saw it, is a most barren South Coast of and desolate-looking country, quite treeless and rising inland in great

rounded, rocky, moss or rock covered hills, bordered seaward by
At 10.30 P.M. I saw a huge ice-bay about a mile away looking in the darkness like a number of small clouds resting on the coast
cliffs of majestic heights. I saw few human habitations of any kind.

Ice-bay.

Ocean voyage.

Montreal to Lewisport.

1911.

June 24

July 1

(No 16)

Birds of several kinds were in sight much of the day, most numerous Birds seen
between noon and 3 P.M. as we were passing the Long Point Islands of Newfoundland

Miquelon and San Pierre. I saw in all about 30 Kittiwakes and
50 Murres, a few Ross-bills, several Puffins, a dozen or more
Gannets, a flock of about a dozen Sooty Shearwaters flying on the
water close at hand, a single Great Shearwater and one Petrel.

Kittiwakes,
Murres,
Ross-bills.
Gannets
Sooty & Great
Shearwaters.
Petrel.

A small land bird flitted about our upper deck all day. Several
of the passengers had a good view of it and one of them almost
caught it. But whenever I was called out to see it it had
just mysteriously disappeared. At length I had a brief and
very unsatisfactory view of it as it was flying low over the
water under the side of the ship. It looked like either a
Nashville or a Tennessee Warbler. The latter species was indicated
by the descriptions of those who saw it best for they said it
was greenish above and rusty-white beneath. Here, I remember,
showed it have come aboard our ship at such a date as this

Helmuth's
paragon (?)
comes aboard.

North Atlantic

Ocean voyage

Montreal to Liverpool

1911.

June 27

June 24 to

July 1

(No 5)

Mr. Wilson, a fellow passenger, saw a frigate bird in bay very near at hand at 6 a.m. and, on Little Cove, a whole flocking. When I came on deck

at 9 a.m. Fulmars were in sight in several directions. I saw them

frequently through the entire forenoon, perhaps 50 in all, mostly singly, never

more than 2 or 3 together, all but one on wing skimming low over the

water with quick, nervous wing beats and short, alternating periods of gliding

on set wings. I also saw three Mother Carey's Chickens (probably *Oceanites oceanica*) one in the forenoon, the others in the afternoon.

Birds noted

200 to 400

miles N.E.

from Cape Race,

Newfoundland.

Fulmar Petrels

Oceanites

oceanica?

About 9.30 a.m., when we were fully 200 miles from Newfoundland

(the nearest land) a pair of Puffins, flying towards us at a height of about 60 feet above the water, passed on ship so near at hand (perhaps within 50 yards) that I had an excellent view of them.

Arctic Puffins

200 miles from

land.

June 28. This was an essentially birdless day passed almost in

mid-ocean. I saw literally nothing save a single Mother Carey's Chicken

which I took to be a Wilson's Petrel. Several of the passengers reported an assembly of 50 to 75 birds of the same or similar kind seen early in the afternoon hovering in a dense cluster about floating food (as it was thought).

Birds noted

in mid-ocean.

Oceanites

oceanica?

North Atlantic

Ocean voyage.

Montreal to Liverpool. Mid ocean

1911.

June 24
to
July 6
(No 61)

June 29. Some after breakfast I saw 4 birds about a mile off whistling
low over the ocean. They looked like Green Shearwaters. At 3 P.M. I had
a good view of what was certainly a bird of this species. It passed us
within an eighth of a mile in close company with a Fulmar. Their flight
was very similar in character but the Fulmar looked almost pure white
all over whereas the Shearwater showed plain brown above in contrast with
its white underparts.

Deer's
birds.

Puffin major

Fulmar

A Swallow which I did not see but which was clearly owned by
several of the passengers and described to me as having a black back
and from which underparts came aboard our steamer about noon
when we were still at least 400 miles from the nearest point on
the coast of Ireland. Although we are noticed that it had a
white rump I think it must have been a European House
Martin. What could it have been doing at this season
so far from land?

A Swallow
birds are
about 400
miles from
land.

North Atlantic.

Ocean voyager.

Montreal to Liverpool.

1911.

June 24

July 1.

(No 7)

June 30. When I came on deck at 8.30 a.m. the first birds I

saw were two Murres. Coming from the eastward they flew past me within twenty yards and just on a level with my head. Just after passing me they spread off and alighted on the water some fifty yards away sitting on its surface very quietly and gracefully as an Eel with wide spread tails and feet. Happening to glance sternward a minute or two later I

saw that a ^{half} dozen or more Fulmars were following close over the bow of our steamer, now coming up abreast to her stern, kept wheeling off to one side to fall far behind and then coming on again in single file with nervous pinning wing beats. They increased in numbers through the day until by 5.30 when I saw three more there were at least 12 or 15 of them. When I came up again at 7 P.M.,

after dining, I was surprised to find that they had been replaced during the interim by about an equal number of Lesser Black-headed

Gulls. Besides the birds above named I saw during the forenoon a Gannet and 5 Greater Shearwaters. All the while we were approaching the north end of Ireland but no land or light was sighted before I went to bed at 1 a.m. when the watch was duly thrown overboard with only darkness

Birds seen
at sea off
west coast of
Ireland.
Murres for
one from land.

Fulmars.

Lesser Black-
headed Gulls

Gannet.
Puffin major

Irish Sea.

Dear boyage.

Montreal to Liverpool.

1911.

June 24

to

July 1.

(no 8)

July 1. When I awoke, not long after sunrise, the cold, musical

Birds seen

in

Irish Sea.

Herring Gulls

clamor of Herring Gulls came to my ears from above the ship.

Swarms of them were following her water when I came on deck at 5.30

to find the northern shores of Ireland and the southern coasts of Scotland

in plain view to the right and left. They kept after us all day

long, in varying numbers, gliding for hundreds of yards at a time on

Gliding for

on the wings

the wings with the strong wind coming striking them nearly a beam.

One was often to be seen perched on a round mast that topped

one of our masts where it would rest for many minutes at a time

with the Herring Gulls were two or three Brown Black-backs and (I think) Lesser Black-

backed Gulls,

a very few Mew Gulls. I saw during the day only 2 Gannets & but Mew Gulls,

Gannets,

the same number of many Shearwaters. Altogether the bird life of

Mew

Shearwaters.

this portion of the Irish Sea was far less rich than I had anticipated

after my experience with the more southern portion in August (4) 1909.

But really no Puffins, Murres, Auks or Cormorants were seen to-day

Indeed the birds above named were all that I noticed.

England.

Oxford, England,

1911.

July 5

Cloudless with light westerly breeze & intervals of dead calm. Very warm (max. 83°), Evening calm and rather sultry but not uncomfortably so.

Awaking soon after day break (probably about 2 a.m.) I heard in the garden at the rear of our house, coming in through my open window, a delightful burst of bird music which lasted nearly half an hour. The birds engaged in it were a Robin, a Blackbird, two Song Sparrows and a Wren. Later in the forenoon in the trees that shade the Mall in Christchurch Meadows or in the garden at the rear of its boarding college I heard more Song Sparrows, a Blackbird, a Robin, a Stock Dove and, over a grassy field, a Sky Lark. At home later most of the birds in the beautiful garden of Wadham College were silent but a Chiff Chaff and Green Finch were singing vigorously, and a Hedge Sparrow occasionally. For fully two hours at evening (6.30-8.30) there was a continuous and thrilling concert of bird voices in the trees & shrubbery bordering on the Chessell just above the "Pillars". Here we heard 2 Thrushes, several Wrens & Robins and one Blackbird. During a

British
bird music

England.

Motor ride Oxford to Dorchester.

1911.

July 5
(no 2)

motor ride to Dorchester in mid afternoon dozens of Yellow Hummers
perched on telegraph wires along the road and then before Skylofts
soaring over the grain fields, were in full song. There were also on the Corn
wires a few large flocks of a generally plain drab color & looking not
unlike of House Sparrows, which had a monotonous, unmusical song that
recalled, but was not closely like, that of our Grasshopper Sparrow.
(There, no doubt, as I hardly referring to Collins' Book, were Corn Buntings)
A somewhat similar, but more spirited and emphatic song, was
uttered at coming by a bird perched in a hawthorn on the river bank.

Yellow Hummers

Corn
Buntings

Corn
Buntings

Although I had a good view of it I failed to recognize it. It seemed
to be generally drab in color with a black or blackish head and of about
the size and build of a House Sparrow. (Afterwards, identified, by
reference to Collins' Manual, as a Corn Bunting)

It is quite evident that most of the familiar birds here have
nearly or quite ceased singing and that those which have not, with the
exception of Thrushes and Skylofts, are no longer at their best.

Thrushes &
Skylofts

The birds were in apparently full song all the afternoon but I hear
the Thrushes only at morning & evening when their musical phrases were unaltered.

England.

Orfford, England.

1911.

July 5
(no 3)

As in 1891 I am inclined to place the Blackbird at the head of
all the British songsters that I have thus far heard; nor am I sure that
we have his superior or even equal, among those of eastern North America.
It is true that his song lacks variety as compared with that of the
Song Sparrow or even of the Robin (of England) but in respect to beauty,
refinement and perfection of finish it is simply incomparable. His voice
is a rich contralto, not loud yet carrying well and all-pervading when
the bird is in a grove or garden & the air calm. Each utterance consists
of not more than ten or a dozen notes given rapidly but very smoothly
and exquisitely modulated, seeming to flow from the bird's throat rather than
to be the result of conscious effort. After an interval of several seconds
these notes are repeated, with more or less appreciable variations both in
form and inflection. The song has at times a dreamy quality, which
is most delightful. To my mind it combines the rich, flowing quality of
the song of our Rose-breasted Grosbeak with much of the spirituous quality
of the song of our Hermit Thrush. It bears no resemblance whatever, either in
form or expression, to the song of our Robin. The bird seems to shun human observation

Song of the
Blackbird

then sit at all times and to sing chiefly in the dense foliage of trees or thickets, flying from place to place between
succession with a way or at least changing its position rather frequently, after the manner of our Olive-backed Thrush.
I saw one sing to-day, however, on a leafy branch in front of my fire and when it flew to another tree
it sang on every as it passed over a wooded garden.

England.

Oxford

1911.

July 5
(no 4)

There is much in the song of the Thrush to remind one of Song of the
Blackbird
Thrush
that of our Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher but it is less hurried
and confident and some of its notes seem to have been borrowed from
other birds although they vary almost infinitely with different individuals
and widely with the same individual. As with the Thrasher the same
note is habitually repeated twice or three in quick succession which may
now and then it may be thus given as many as four or five times.
As a rule the bird makes a distinct pause between each set of notes,
at least at this season when the interest of listen sometimes lasts for
several seconds. All the notes are clearly enunciated while many of
them are given with strong and apparently very carefully regulated
distinctness and emphasis. Some sound very like human whistling
of a staccato and somewhat intricate character and they may be almost
startling in their distinctness and abruptness. The bird's voice is loud, clear
and resonant, but almost wholly lacking in sentiment or spirituality.
Thus while he is an admirably trained and very pleasing musician he
fails to thrill one as does the Blackbird or even Robin Redbreast. Nevertheless
he is worth going very far to hear. The best singer I have found anywhere

England.

Oxford.

1911.

July 5
(125)

This season juncos habitually - if not invariably - when singing on St. Giles' church directly across the street from our boarding house. Sometimes crossing the Iowa cross at one end of the nave, sometimes the ridge of a higher part of the roof. Usually, but not invariably, he begins with two or a dozen notes given deliberately and smoothly much in the manner of our Robin's song and indeed strongly suggesting it. But after this perhaps he lapses into the Thrasher-like style of song. I have heard one or two other birds begin in the same way. The St. Giles bird is evidently an exceptionally fine performer but, like all the others, he is fast losing vigor & expressiveness of utterance and I fear we shall not hear him at all many days more. (This last sentence was added on July 9th.)

Song of the
Juncos.

England.

Oxford.

1911.
July 9

Song.

Swifts are very numerous in Oxford this season. At evening I see them by dozens and even flocks carrying about over the houses in the town or over the main open parts of the Park. The alternate use of their wings is habitual and perfectly obvious. I have made it out dozens of times to my entire satisfaction during the past week. Their flight is much like that of our Cherry Swift but less rapid and more swallow-like with less frequent wing beats. At times, however, they move exactly like our birds & given as swiftly. English authors characterize their notes as "scratching". None at hand they certainly suggest such characterization but when heard only faintly they sound very like the piping recurrence of our Cedar Bird. They look larger than our Swifts but the apparent difference in size is not so great as the actual difference. When they are soaring with lit wings the bend of the wing looks different & more pronounced than that of our Swift.

England.

Oxford, England.

1911.
July 9
(No 2)

Next to the song of the Blackbird I like best that of the Robin... Although short and subject to only two or three variations it is highly musical in quality and rarely without in expression. The bird's voice is strong and clear and his notes delightfully liquid while they are poured forth in rapid succession giving to each, indeed, like water from a fountain. This is true, at least, of the best specimens. Some of the inferior ones have rather shrill or even metallic voices.

Song of
the
Robin

The British Wren is another songster of high merit. His song is not unlike that of our Eastern Wren but much less brilliant and based in quality although it flows more smoothly and the bird's voice is somewhat fuller and sweeter, if more commonplace. He is still singing freely and well whereas the Robin is fast lapsing into silence.

Song of
the
Wren

1911.

July 1-31

England.

Sailing from Montreal on June 24 I landed in

General

Observations.

Liverpool on July 12th and spent the whole of the latter month in England.

When I reached there the country was suffering from drought as but little Severe drought rain had fallen since the preceding April. With the exception of a brief shower on the evening of the 2nd and a thunder shower on the morning of the 26th there was more or less of a drought during my entire stay and the 3rd, 7th and 15th were the only days when the sun was not shining most of the time, often in a perfectly cloudless sky. At mid-day the mercury usually rose to about 80° Fahr., frequently to 84°, occasionally to 86° and even to 88°. There was seldom much haze and on the more brilliant & cloudless days almost no trace of it, even when one looked off over open country for distances of ten or fifteen miles. The wind was commonly from the west or south-west and at most no more than a light steady breeze. The nights were uniformly just cool enough to be perfectly comfortable. While many of the days were too warm to induce one to indulge in vigorous exercise I did not find any of them really oppressive.

England.

1911.

July 1-31

(No 2.)

Nor did I ever have occasion to put on an overcoat while walking or seated out of doors (I did so once or twice when outstaying) even at morning or evening when the air was commonly delightfully fresh and heavily charged with the fragrance of flowers, of sweet mown grass or of various finer foliage. Alligation it seemed to me a deadly perfect summer weather although the English complained bitterly of what they termed the excessive heat—as did also many of the American tourists.

According to two newspapers it was the driest summer that had been known for over fifty years and the hottest for twenty-five years.

As the month wore on the country became more and more drought-stricken until at its close there was scarce a grass field or lawn in all England which was not, for the most part, as bare and brown as our fields look in early spring or very late autumn. Indeed the only lawns which showed much green were those which had been especially watered and these were few in number for the garden hose is comparatively little used in England being ordinarily not required there. The grain fields had

Unusual
heat.

Progress of
drought.

England.

1911.

July 31
1903/

mostly turned light russet or pale straw color by the middle of the month when harvesting was already in full progress - six or eight weeks before the usual date. Shallow-rooted vegetation of every kind was, of course, exceptionally poor and stunted and there were comparatively few wild flowers but the trees and shrubbery looked as well as usual save where they had been injured by insects - as in Sherwood Forest.

These conditions obtained everywhere I went save on the borders of streams and on the steep slopes of high ridges and low mountains in north Derbyshire where the grass continued pleasingly green in many places.

The effect of this exceptionally severe and protracted drought on bird life such as is characteristic of English fields and meadows was scarcely less marked and general than on the vegetation. It is true that there were plenty of Sky Larks, House Sparrows, Yellow Horreos & Corn Buntings in and about the fields of ripening grain but on inland meadows & pastures I saw almost no Lapwings, literally no Gulls and comparatively few Rooks when even Starlings were much less numerous than usual.

Drought

Effect of
drought on
bird life.

England.

1911.

July 1-31

1 No. 41

When I reached Oxford on July 3rd Thrushes, Wrens and Wood Pigeons Oxford
birds.
were still singing freely in the trees and Hawthorn in the city parks and gardens

and Skylarks, Lesser House Martins and Green Swifts in the open fields.

I also heard a number of Blackbirds and a few Robins during the first
few days, especially in early morning and at evening. At the latter hour

I usually went into the park and here, as well as along the banks of the
little river (Cherwell), I was treated to several very delightful bird

concerts in which Thrushes, Blackbirds, Robins, Wrens and Wood Pigeons

took chief part. There was also a Black-capped Titmouse which I took to

be the most fit to make wing beat and musical notes even without song &

often very forcibly on one or more of the day. Wood Pigeons were Wood Pigeons

unusually abundant everywhere this summer. At evening their deep, guttural,

measured cooing notes came from far & near throughout the wooded parts of

the Park and were always grateful to my ears. Stock Doves were much Stock Doves

less numerous & I heard only one coo, on July 5, in an elm in Christ Church

meadows. It had a deep, hoarse note repeated six or eight times without cessation.

England.

1911.

July 1-31
(No 5)

I saw only a very few Grasshopper Doves about Oxford and then none at Twente Doves.
Selous but I heard one coming on the banks of the Thames near Windsor
about the middle of the month. The only bird new to me and
noted at Oxford was a Cirl Bunting which we saw perched in the Cirl Bunting
top of a hawthorn by the river on the evening of the 5th singing
its shrill and varied but not very pleasing notes. On the evening of
the 8th a Kingfisher shot past us within 25 yards as we were sitting in Kingfisher
a punt near the Flashes.

In the beautiful grounds at the rear of Wadham College where Wadham College
grounds
I spent many a pleasant & interesting hour hunting my birds under the
shade of the fine old trees, birds of various kind were more abundant
and easily observed than almost anywhere else in Oxford. Robins,
Hawthorn, Black-birds and Field Wagtails were constantly seen about
our tea lawn and in the trees or shrubbery close about it I heard
besides the Spurr Wood Pigeon, Titmice & several Thrushes, Golden
crested Wrenchets, Wrens and great numbers of Green Finches - the

England.

1911.

July 6-31
(no 6!)

lost - moved in full song, on all hours, up to the middle
of the month and later. Here on July 15 I heard a Chiff-Chaff
singing freely for the first and last time this summer. When

Chiff-Chaff
in song.

I took at the time to be its note led me to a nest about 5 feet nest of
above the ground among ivy on the face of an old wall but Sooty White-throat
on referring to "Collett", later, I learned that the Chiff-Chaff builds a
chamber nest on or very close to the ground and that this wall
note agreed better with his description of that of the Sooty White-throat.

It had 5 young almost fully grown and fledged when the nest
bird fed repeatedly while I was standing within a few yards of
her and was the only occupied nest of any kind (save that of the
House Martin & of the Swallow & Sand Martin) that I found in
England this year.

Spotted Flycatchers were common throughout the Park, feeding on
finch seeds along its broad walks, and Swallows & Song to come to it
at evening to skim & wheel over its open central portions in loose flocks

England.

1911.

July 1-31.

(No 7)

During a visit which we made to Cambridge on July 10th

I saw or heard, late in the afternoon, in the beautiful park-like grounds bordering the Cam on both sides, at the rear of the long line of colleges, great numbers of birds. Among these were three young & very noisy Carrion Crows, perched in the dead top of a large old tree Carrion Crows a female Thrush, a species new to me in life, which flitted along a Redstart ground well ahead of us, sometimes alighting in the path & hopping over it much like a Robin, frequently clinging to the branches of the trees when its reddish tail & dark greyish forehead showed conspicuously.

At the mouth of a brick drain about a foot square in the face of an old brick wall about three feet above the surface of the Cam, at the rear of Kings Chapel, were four young Sand Martins huddling close together and fed every half minute or so by one or both parents. Although almost & perhaps fully grown & fledged I doubt if they had as yet taken to wing, and suspect that they had been hatched within the drain which was not discharging any liquid matter at the time.

Young
Sand Martins
in brick
drain in
wall.

England

Cambridge

1911.

July 1-31

(Nov 8)

Before leaving Cambridge on the morning of the 11th

I made a pilgrimage to Magdalen College and the little
vine-clad house kept it where Alfred Newton lived and died.
The sight of it moved me deeply. Simple & unpretentious yet
very neat & picturesque, nothing almost within the walls of the
college with extension and well enclosed college grounds filled
with shrubbery and trees and alive with birds as it was
one could not but imagine a more fitting and congenial
home for him who occupied it so many years. When I
saw it this morning it was bathed in brilliant sunshine
and a light breeze never ceased among the trees on its
walls. Blackbirds, Thrushes, Robins and a Chaffinch were
lingering close about it, Swifts, Swallows, Martins and
Jackdaws circling over it. Every one with whom I talked
had known & loved Newton and I was shown a
fine oil painting of him exactly hung in one of the college halls.

Magdalen
College

Newton's
house &
grounds.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston.

1911.

August 2

Cloudy & sunny by turns with occasional heavy showers.

Irish Sea &

Off South
Coast
of Ireland

Wind about S.W. increasing in force through day until, late in the

afternoon, it was blowing what one of our sailors called half-a-gale. A Stormy

Sea

or, as Globe Allen & I thought, at the rate of 30 miles an hour, (The Captain of the "Arabie" estimated it at about 35 miles an hour) whistling shrilly through the rigging of our steamer ("Arabie", 15,000 tons),

heaving her over very decidedly and heaving up a lumpy, white-

capped sea. From the crests of "the combers wind-bounded"

the wind came and drove tore sheets of glistening spray and

drove it far over the troubled ocean. Some of the waves broke

high enough against the sides of our ship to wet her

upper deck - fifty feet or more above the water line.

When I came on deck at 8 a. m. there were only a

few birds in sight save ten Gulls following the steamer. Every

now & then I might see a Gannet or a Marine Shearwater or

a Murre, flying low over the water, but no great numbers

of them were in sight at any time during the next three hours.

Gulls,
Gannets,
Many
Shearwaters
Murres

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston.

1911.

August 2
(No 2)

On nearing Queenstown, however, we saw them in ever-increasing numbers and its rocky land-locked harbor proved to be alive with Gulls and Murres although there was no Gannets or Shearwaters there.

Birds in
Queenstown
Harbor.

Swarms of Gulls chattered about the ship and Murres in pairs & small flocks drifted past within gunshot of us as the floated on the water. Almost if not quite one half of the Gulls in this harbor were Little Black-backs most of the remaining half being Herring Gulls with a few Black-backs of both kinds. We looked in vain for Mew Gulls (L. canus) or rather we tried in vain to fully satisfy ourselves that any of the birds we saw belonged to that species. Some looked smaller than Herring Gulls but none quite small enough for L. canus. We had them very near us, in good light, as they posted & reposed on wing or floated on the water. I have had similar trouble before this in trying to separate Mew Gulls from Herring Gulls. Yet the difference in size should be appreciable.

Gulls & Murres

Mew Gulls
absent.

As we entered the mouth of the harbor a Shag (P. graecus) posted Shag within 200 yards flying over to sea.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston.

1911.

August 2
(No 3)

We left Greenstown about noon and spent most of the afternoon ^{Off South Coast of Ireland.} steaming to the westward with the south coast of Ireland on our right and never or less pleasantly breath through the mist-laden atmosphere but gradually retreating. All the while we were attended closely by 50 to 100 Herring Gulls, the number varying considerably from time to time. ^{Herring Gulls following our ship.} Whenever any food was thrown aboard they descended to and clustered about it alighting on or hovering just over, the water, while a few were often engaged in flying to and fro over the crowing heads of the ship. But most of them were for the most part sailing on set wings about on a level with the upper deck or just a little above it, on the windward side, heading as the headed, ~~slipping~~ ^{slipping} ~~down~~ ^{down} ~~face~~ ^{face} with her and gliding thus, without apparent effort and perhaps without a single wing beat, for a mile or more at a time. It was a not less wonderful than beautiful sight—that of this cloud of statly, almost snow-white birds, some almost within arms reach and about on a level with our faces, moving calmly on a level plane,

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(No 4)

against a strong wind, at a speed of not less than 15 knots an hour, yet absolutely without visible or indeed suspected muscular effort of any kind. Nor were they habitually doing their best for every now and then several of them would increase their speed, perhaps very considerably, yet without flapping their wings. They seemed, indeed, to have plenty of it always in reserve and to be able to move at almost any pace they liked, now accelerating, now retarding it yet even without obvious means of so governing it. Allen, who watched them with me for a time, fully agreed with me that there was here no possibility of their making use of previously acquired momentum or of their acquiring enough of it to be of any practical service by the occasional slight downward dips that they made, for these were often infrequent and seldom more than a few inches in depth. We further agreed that there seemed to be really no limits to the distances which they could glide at uniform ^{perhaps} or accelerating speed since we unquestionably saw ~~several~~

Remarkable
flight of
Herring Gulls.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off south coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(no 5)

of them go considerably more than a mile without either flopping Remarkable
or losing headway or changing their uniformly maintained elevation above flight of
Herring Gulls.
the ocean. Moreover we both arrived rather quickly on the definite
conclusion that the wind furnished them chief if not only means
of propulsion although for a time we were given out a host to
conjecture how it could so act. For they were heading within
four points of it (our sailor man agreed to this estimate) or about
as close as a good schooner would lie when close-hauled, yet
they made no appreciable leeway. After Mr. Allen had gone
below there was a change either in the wind or in the course
of our steamer so that for half an hour or more the wind
was almost dead ahead. Yet the Gulls glided on and on
nearly as before although they rose a little higher & dropped
a little fraction astern still, however, keeping up with the
ship without visible effort. They were now heading, I should
say, within one point of the wind yet sailing into it

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(no 6)

with undiminished speed and ease. As I stood marvelling at Remarkable
this wonderful performance and noting carefully every detail respecting flight of
Herring Gulls.

The power of head, body and wings of half a dozen or more birds which

were gliding, ghost-like, within two or three yards of the sail

to which I clung as a support against the furious gusts of

wind that suddenly assailed me an explanation of the Possible
mystery which I cannot help thinking may be a sound one explanation
of it.

and which, I am confident to find, also applies somewhere

to Dr. Allen. It is simply this: - That whereas the Gull

obtains and maintains a forward movement during ordinary flight,

especially through calm air, by vigorous downward strokes of

the wings, it ^{may} ~~accomplishes~~ the same result when progressing

against a heavy wind by holding the wings rigid and allowing

the blasts to strike against the tips or terminal portions of

the flight feathers thus forcing the latter upwards precisely as

they are bent, if by an inverse process, whenever there is a

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(no 7)

prominent downcast stroke of the wing. Theoretically this seems to me quite possible or even probable while several things that I noticed to-day, without understanding their significance at the time, now seem to support such a conclusion rather effectively.

They are as follows:-

1. During the midday hours when the wind was only moderately strong the Gulls seemed able to glide against it on the wings for only comparatively short distances hardly much exceeding 100 or 200 yards. During this period the set of their wings when thus gliding did not strike Mr. Allen or me as very radically different from those characteristic of similarly brief periods of sailing when the birds are moving about our bay & harbors in ordinary weather.
2. As the wind increased in force during the afternoon (there was no appreciable change for a time in its general direction or in the course of the storm) the Gulls correspondingly increased the

Remotely
flight of
Herring Gulls

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(No 8)

lengths of their gliding flights until the latter seemed, as I have said, to be limited only by their wishes or mere caprices.

Remarkable
flight of
Herring Gulls.

A corresponding progressive and very noticeable if not also significant change took place in the "set" of their wings. This is difficult to describe but essentially it may be said to have consisted (1) in the more general backward trend of the whole wing (2) in the more decided cranking or bending of the wing at the carpal joint (3) in the much more decided downward trend of the wing quills and especially of the secondaries. The latter were so deflected downward towards their tips at times as to give the wing a curiously incurved or hollowed aspect posteriorly.

Set of their
wings.

3. When the set wings, thus incurved, were struck by especially fierce gusts of wind one could see quite plainly and unmistakably that the tips of the secondaries were ^{or bent} ~~flying~~ exposed by the wind

while the forward edge of the wing remained, of course, perfectly rigid. It was precisely this observation which first suggested to my mind the thought that the wind might seem thus to drive the bird against it.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2

No 91

Striking obliquely against the wind well 800 feet long & 50 or

Remarked

flight of

Wingless Gulls

more feet in height* which the side of the storm formed the wind

*The Captain afterwards tells me that the upper deck is 60 feet above the water
The hull of the ship, however, was 600 feet in length.
must have cushioned back in eddying, swirling currents but if there

assisted or impeded the flight of the Gulls the fact was not evident.

Most of the birds were moving along slightly above the upper deck
and hence fully exposed to its undisturbed force while very (some 50 yards or more)
and many of these were so far out over the water as to be

in air currents that could not be modified by the presence of

the ship. Yet one and all those moving well above the water

(i.e. at least 25 feet above it) seemed to progress with equal ease

and speed. But whenever any of them descended to within

eight or ten feet of the crests of the waves they seemed

wholly unable to advance against the wind without floundering

Nor did they seem able or at least disposed to glide along one leeward side
according to the wind and dead waters in this way out on water above the level of our upper deck.
and energetic wing beats. These birds were beset by very many

observations. Another exceedingly interesting exception to certain of the

rules just formulated was approached by two superb Black-headed Gulls Larus marinus

Gulls (L. marinus) in full breeding plumage. For more than an

unable to glide
far, appeared
weak

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
no 10

hour then birds accompanied the Herring Gulls mingling with Remora and keeping pace with them on a level with our upper deck but gliding of Gulls.

flying all the while as Gulls fly on ordinary occasions that is by alternate flapping and sailing, the wings being beaten vigorously every few yards. I think evidently that the Black-Back was unable to glide for against the wind on northern shores it is very much more easily practised in. The two adult Lesser Black-backs (L. fuscus) were no less stiff as it than the Herring Gulls, one of which could and did do it. Indeed, with the exception of the two L. marinus, all the Gulls in the flock were frequently gliding at one time sometimes for hundreds of yards without a single wing beat on the part of any of them.

Black-backs glide as well as Herring Gulls.

When thus engaged at the height of the blow their wings were, as I have said, not only strongly arched and much inclined but also held much further back than common so that a large portion of the body was shown in advance of where the wing

Relation position of wings body in gliding birds

Voyage from Loughshoe to Boston. Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(No 11)

appeared to join it. The neck, too, appeared to be exceptionally elongated giving one the impression that the birds centre of gravity had been brought as far forward as possible. Its head was carried normally, with the bill pointing rather decidedly downwards.

The plumage of head, neck and body looked unusually compressed and ~~the~~ from theory appeared much more than common.

In other and briefer words the birds seemed to have reduced as far as might be the resistance to the air offered by their heads, necks & bodies; to have advanced as far as they could their centre of gravity; and to be employing the force of the wind to drive them, literally for miles, almost straight against it by merely letting it beat against their long, stiffly-held but flexible and obviously downward bent flight quills - especially the longer primaries being held more nearly level. Such flight through constantly opposing air currents constantly varying in force and also at least slightly in direction, would be quite impossible if the bird were unable to constantly

Removal of
flight of
Herring Gulls.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(Mon 12)

ready, instantly and by what may be termed intuitive action, the
"set" of its wings and that of contour of their feathers as well, perhaps,
serve general equilibrium. Such readjustments were constantly seen
by us and easily noted although less marked than on nights
have expected. The birds also seemed to use their tails to some
extent as rudders but they did not ever open or spread them
in any widely. Before sunset they began to leave us one by
one and before dark all had disappeared. There were no
Gulls of any kind in sight during the following day. Thus
they did not follow us quite out of sight of the shores of
Ireland where no doubt many of them had nests and young.
Practically all of those following the shores after we came out
of Limerick Harbor were fully mature birds still in
breeding plumage but in or very near this harbor we saw
two or three dark plumaged birds which we thought must
have been hatched & reared this summer.

Remarkable
flight of
Herring Gulls.

The Gulls
begin to leave
us before sunset
and are all
gone before
dark.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(no 13/)

With respect to individual skill and proficiency ^{of flight} there seemed
to be little if any difference among the hundred or more
Herring Gulls which accompanied us on the occasion just
described. Indeed one and all of them was evidently a past master
in the art of gliding - on set wings into the path of strong wind.
Then, as often happened, all were doing it as well the general effect
was more impressive, not to say amazing, than anything of
the kind that I have ever before witnessed. Its impressiveness
was heightened by the absolute silence of the swarm of great,
snowy birds and by the mysterious ease and perfect orderliness
with which they swept ceaselessly onward like a decorously
marshalled army of bird ghosts. For not one of them ever
gave tongue or ~~ever~~ interfered in any way with another until
the moment arrived when food of some kind was thrown
overboard. Whenever that happened they would break out into
a shrill chorus of exultant cries and descend as one to
the water to flap & jostle one another as they hovered just
above it eagerly picking up the floating bread or biscuit.

Remembrance

Flight of

Herring Gulls

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston:

North Atlantic - The Barren Stretch between Ireland & Grand Banks

1911.

August 3

noon obs. lat. 50.43; lon. 16.55. Weather fair and cool with alternating clouds and sunshine and smooth sea.

No birds were noticed during the forenoon but about 4 P. M. Scarcity of birds
10 or 12 Shearwaters were seen by Dr. Allen. He called one out Puffinus major?
to be taken but only two were in sight when I reached the deck.
These looked like Puffinus major to which species Dr. Allen was inclined
to refer all that he had observed. He caught a fastidious gynaecom of Methus Carpi
Chelidon.
a "Methus Carpi Chelidon" of one or another kind.

" 4

noon obs. lat. 49.05; lon. 26.29. Weather cloudy & cool with a few brief
gleams of sunshine and occasional showers. Moderate W. wind & smooth sea.

Dr. Allen saw about a dozen Greater Shearwaters at 10 a. m. and later Puffinus major
a single "Methus Carpi Chelidon". I saw what he told me was a Methus
Carpi Chelidon

Seen Fish backing on its side at ten miles south of Shark-hill Seen Fish
dorsal fin exposed at times.

" 5

noon obs. lat. 46.51; lon. 35.03. Weather fair with fresh westerly
winds and rough head sea. No birds of any kind seen to-day
even by the Allen who were almost constantly on deck. They saw a
school of Porpoises, however.

No birds of
any kind.
Porpoises

North Atlantic

Voyage from Savannah to Boston .. In the Gulf Stream.

1911.
Aug. 6

noon obs., Lat 43.44; Lon. 42.45. Fine weather with almost unbroken
sunshine, light N.W. wind and smooth sea.

Yesterday we were inclined to think that we might be in the Gulf Stream
To-day there was no question of it. The water was rich blue in certain
lights, fragments and occasional large rafts of the orange-brown gulf weed Gulf weed.
were constantly drifting past and Flying Fish were positively abundant Flying Fish
while Petrels of three or four kinds were frequently in sight. Petrels

(Miss Parades of West Medford, Mass.)

A young girl, assured me at lunch (sent) from her boat of observation
in the bow of the steamer she had seen at least 200 Flying Fish Flying Fish
shortly before. I was there or elsewhere on deck, often in company
with the Allen's, during almost the entire afternoon, when I saw
at least 30 Flying Fish some scarce larger than Minnows, others
apparently at least five or six inches in length. As a rule the smaller
ones flew only a few yards or perhaps feet at a time but some of
the larger ones soared distances as great as fifty or sixty yards
skimming along very rapidly just above the waves of the bow

North Atlantic.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - In the Gulf Stream.

1911.

Aug. 6
(No 2)

waves usually at right angles to the course of the wind. More flying fish than ever I was almost certain that I saw them vibrate their wings rapidly & intermittently & at other times that I heard over the heavy blue sea, presumably, to such action.

Mutton Cargi Chickens were in sight very frequently and at times almost constantly, between 3 & 7 P.M. wandering about over the ocean sometimes coming within 75 or 100 yards of our steamer but never once following her closer so far as we were able to observe. Once I saw four and several times three, flying in company but at a hole they occurred singly or in pairs. Three wheels crossed our bows when I was standing there about 2 P.M. looked exactly like Wilson's Plovers and flew close to the water much after the manner of White-bellied Swallows. All the others that I saw (certainly at least 50 & I think near 75 in number) looked a third smaller and their flight seemed much lighter and more erratic. Some after following the undulations of the water rather closely for awhile, would

Mutton Cargi
Chickens

Oceanites
oceanica

Puffin
patulus

North Atlantic

Voyage from Winnipeg to Boston. Gulf Stream waters

1911.

Aug. 6
(No 31)

bounded, as it were, straight upward to a height of 8 or 10 feet above the crests of the waves, repeating this action several times in succession and reminding me of the similar but more pronounced and gracefully rhythmic upward and downward sweeps of many Shearwaters. There were times when these small Petrels seemed to me to fly as rapidly, one under ones, as I have ever seen the big Northern Gulls fly. The longer I watched them the more convinced I became that they could not be Wilson's Petrels and that they must be Stormy Petrels (Pterodroma pelagica). Dr. Allen, however, was inclined to refer them all to Oceanites oceanicus failing to see that there was any thing peculiar in their flight although he admitted that a few of them did look rather too snooty for that species. I might perhaps have been tempted to agree with him had I not seen, under precisely similar conditions, the then larger and slower flying birds, less than an hour before the above ones began to appear.

Flight of
Pterodroma
pelagica.

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Gulf Stream waters.

1911.
Aug. 6
(No 4)

About the middle of the afternoon some birds gave news
To me appeared half a mile or more from the ship. I first saw
them flying together and shortly afterwards one or two were moving
singly. They acted much like Greater Shearwaters but looked only
about twice as large as Leach's Petrels. As nearly as I could make
out they were wholly white below with a broad white collar about
the neck. Their crown backs & wings (above) looked black or blackish.
Allen who saw them with me at once referred them to either

Puffinus
affinis.

Confidently to Puffinus auduboni* a species with which he
* Subsequent comparison of skins of this bird with those of P. affinis (in Mus. Comp. Hist.)
has satisfied me that the Petrels had referred to belonged without question to the latter species
is far more common in the West Indies but which I do not

remember to have met with living. These birds seemed to
me rather too small for it but they were, as I have
said, a long distance away and we did not have a very
good view of them for the wind was fresh and the white capped
waves running rather high at the time. A single Greater
Shearwater was seen by Allen, in the forenoon I believe.

Puffinus
major.

North Atlantic.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Gay Stream waters

1911.

Aug. 7. Home Obs. Lat. 42.03; Lon. 51.10. Clear and very warm with moderate east wind and smooth, blue sea.

I went out into the boats at 8 A.M. and remained there about fifteen minutes, seeing a Wilson's Petrel and an Arctic Puffin.
having grayish cheeks and dark-colored bill. Arctic Puffin
The latter looked like a young bird. It came flying just over the boats 600 miles
in bright sunlight, a little below the level of our bows deck, from land
within thirty yards of me, and then alighted on the water about seventy yards off where Allen saw it. His identification was the same as mine. We must have been 600 miles from the nearest land. When this bird was seen & about midway between Newfoundland and the Azores, the narrow points.

At 3 P.M. Allen & I went to the boats and remained there a full hour keeping a keen watch over the ocean to the north and (that to the southward being so abash with descending light that it tried our eyes too much to look in that direction). During this time we saw 12 or 15 Mother Carey's Chickens or less than one to the mile, the speed of our ship being about 16 knots per hour.

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Gulf Stream waters.

1911.

Aug 7
(No 2)

I had no hesitation in referring three of these birds which looked Oceanites
oceanus fairly large, had comparatively long wings, and flew like Swallows,

to Oceanites oceanus. All but one of the others was, I think, Pterodroma
pelagica.

Pterodroma pelagica. * Allen remained for a time, as he was yesterday,

* On examining a specimen of P. pelagica in Mus. Comp. Zool. on Aug. 12 I fully

convicted myself that this was the species seen by me on Aug. 6 7 & 8.

At first I was inclined to think there being two kinds but at length when a

pair of the latter ones came circling low over the water within

a few yards of the boat and directly beneath us he gave in and

admitted frankly that they were certainly much smaller than some

of the others with shorter, broader wings, and appreciably different

flight which in both thoughts was, at this time, very bat-like.

Other similarly small birds flying faster off and landing

like those seen yesterday darting about with exceeding swiftness

and swinging up & down like many Phaethon.

A single bird (the specimen above referred to) seen half a mile away Pelagodroma
marina (?)

& but imperfectly seemed to have white on the underparts & to be
slightly larger than a Laysan Petrel. but the latter may have been confined
to the wing as Dr. Allen thought although I felt nearly sure that some
of it was on the throat and breast as well as

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Gulf Stream waters

1911.

Aug. 7
(No 3)

on the voyage & still more certain than the birds was not a Mother Carey's of any kind.

Up to 4 P.M.

No Flying Fish were seen to-day and there was only a very little gulf weed although floating seaward of a palm, yellow-green cast was rather abundant. That we took to be the "Portuguese man o' war" was passed near at hand sailing on the surface of the water and glistening like silver in the sunlight.

During the forenoon Allen, while down in the bows, saw a small shark near at hand and a whale of moderate size spouting about half a mile away. Between 5 & 6 P.M.

he saw four Flying Fish and several Mother Carey's children.

About 7 P.M. as I was standing on the upper deck watching a glorious sunset I saw a jaeger which appeared to be wholly sooty-colored and of the smallest size looking, indeed, scarcely larger than a Portuguese Pigeon - flying at a height of about 90 or 100 feet and very swiftly, with even, vigorous wing beats and no intervals of sailing, it came from the northwest

"Portuguese
man o' war"

Shark &

Whale seen.

Flying Fish
Mother Carey's Children

Jaeger

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Gulf Stream waters.

1911.

Aug 7
(no 4)

heading as if to cross the bows of our ship. But on coming
up with them it turned sharply to the right and went off
westward, into the glowing sunset sky, almost exactly in the pathway
that we were following. Its flight reminded me of that of a
Golden Plover being equally swift & tireless. If I remember
rightly the jaeger that I saw in mid. Atlantic in Aug. 1909
flew at much the same elevation as this bird but more
irregularly and less decisively. As far as I have observed there
are no other sea-birds found far out to sea in this latitude
which fly so high above the water. I think this bird was a Booby-like.

About 5.30 P.M. I heard shouts & exclamations on the upper deck. Big school
and looking out forward the ship in the middle of the largest school of red-bellied
of Porpoises I remember to have ever met with. They were scattered Porpoises
rather irregularly in small parties over an estimated square mile of
ocean. Some of the passengers estimated the total number at between
100 and 200. I did not see more than 50 but I was all the while
looking out for the porpoises only. I recall that I saw almost under
our rail & within thirty yards showed one distinct blackish stripe along
the side with sometimes a fainter parallel one. Their heads were
strongly red-tipped. The whole way across & especially before. Evidently
their best speed was about equal to that of the very common ones they did not

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Gulf Stream waters

1911.

August 8

noon obs. Lat 42.30; Lon. 60.30. Weather perfect with clear sky, light S.E.

wind and calm sea. Day warm.

All day long our steamer has been joggling on westward through a sea scene sufficed by the light country breeze, rich blue in color & pleasantly strewn with ~~horror~~. yellow gull weed with Flying Fish rising singly or in couples or three or four together, many little whales, and Portuguese Man O'war sailing past at more infrequent intervals. The air has been deliciously soft and warm. Altogether the conditions have seemed so nearly like those of the Caribbean Sea, as I remember it in 1894, that I have found it difficult to believe that we were only some 400 miles from and directly to the coastward of, Boston. I have been spending very much of the time in the bow of the ship & Mr. Allen has been with me there at intervals. Something or other of interest was very frequently in sight & the time passed quickly as well as delightfully. I have seen at least 50 Flying Fish, several Portuguese Man O'war & a school of about 15 Porpoises.

Semi-tropical
Conditions

Flying Fish

Portuguese Man
O'War

Flying Fish
Portuguese Man
O'War
Porpoises

North Atlantic.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Great Steam boats

1911.

Aug. 8

(Mon.)

Most of the Flying Fish were directly under the bow and flew off across the wind, sometimes for distances as great as 60 yards, often not further than 6 or 8 feet. Soaring directly down on them we could see with absolute certainty & distinctness that their brilliantly iridescent wings were usually held rigid but occasionally flexed from action, in rather quick vibration, exactly like that of a bird. I was not here then, I mean not near rapid & continuous wing motion on this occasion. The obvious flexing usually occurred just as the fish was leaving the water or when, after just touching the crest of a wave, it continued on its path with renewed momentum. Allen saw some of the wing beats just as closely as I did and others of our fellow passengers also saw and testified to them. That they were at times pronounced and unmistakable is open to no doubt.

Most of these fish varied in length from 2 to 6 or 8 inches and were silvery white with purple & blue iridescence but I saw one about the size & shape of a Cy. Dipterus that was brownish yellow all over

Flying Fish.

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Gulf Stream waters

1911.

August 8
(No 3)

Small dark-colored Petrels with white rumps came in sight every few minutes and at times almost continuously, during the greater part of the day. I must have seen at least 100 in all. Of these I identified 2 positively and a third doubtfully as Storm Petrels. One (the first noted - at 8 A.M.) circled under the bows, directly beneath me, when I made quite sure that it was a P. pelagicus. Another, seen about 3 P.M., by Allen as well as myself was certainly of the same species - Both birds looked somewhat Graculus, as well as swifter, than Wilson's Petrel & had a very different & more bill & wing-flight. All the other seen were referred without hesitation to O. oceanus. Allen & I especially saw their feet extended beyond the tail. Their flight was swifter - like, for the most part, but occasionally rather more like that of a night Hawk than alighted on the water nor did we see any of them pick up any food or even attempt to do so. Indeed they kept on in wing-wandering aimlessly about.

North Cape
Challenger

Pterodroma
belagiana
becomes scarce

Oceanites
oceanus
becomes very
abundant

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Grey Stream waters

1911.

August 8
(no 4)

Early in the afternoon we saw a Greater Shearwater, on first sighting we took it for a Gull which it presently rose rather clumsily to skin off over the ocean. Began a kind of wing, flying like a Puffin & looking to me very like one, passed us at some distance. While I believe it to have been an Arctic Puffin Arctic Puffin? it was, unfortunately, not certainly identified. Allen, who saw it too well than I, thought it might have been some kind of Shearwater.

Greater
Shearwater

Just before breakfast this morning Dr. S. W. Allen had a good view of 2 birds which he thinks were Puffinus Androsius. They crossed over boats about a ship's length ahead with bright daylight flitting fast on their sides. About 7 P.M. I saw ten or a dozen of these same birds flying singly or in pairs low over the water (about 4 or 5 feet above it). Their upper parts including the upper surface of the wings looked indigo black, their under parts snow white. In size they appeared to be a little smaller than many Shearwaters with much shorter wings. Their flight was

~~Greater Shearwater~~
Puffinus
Androsius
again

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Gulf Stream waters.

1911.

Aug. 8

(No 5)

not unlike that of Puffinus major but rather lighter, brighter & more distinct, without obvious traces of the ethereal upsoot wings in which P. major indulges, less often & more readily, however, than P. amplum.

I saw several of these birds to excellent advantage and within 200 yards or less. They seemed to me rather too small for P. auduboni but if not that I cannot imagine where they could have been.*

Shortly after 7 P.M. when the calm sea was shining with opalescent tints reflected from the sunset sky to the westward, I saw flying as close to its surface as they could fly without striking the points of thin long, narrow wings, 5- birds which appeared to be unmarked and almost if not quite black & about twice as large as Bonaparte's Petrels. They crossed our bows singly, at intervals of two or three minutes, heading south-east and keeping straight on without the slightest pause or marked change of course put out of sight. Their wings

were moved incessantly with long, deep, vigorous but easy strokes. Allen thinks they may have been Bonaparte's Petrels. I have never seen anything at all like them before [Afterwards (on Aug 11) I examined several specimens of Bonaparte's Petrel in Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard & when it was the species I saw on Aug. 8.]

* Puffinus
cf. note on p. 46
of Aug. 6, 1911

Bulweria
bulweri

North Atlantic

1911.

August 9

Voyage from Swinshead to Boston. Her termination.

noon observation lat. 42.26; long. 69.16.

A rather warm day, partly cloudy, partly sunny, with light southerly wind and smooth sea threaded here and there with heavy banks of fog.

Just before breakfast I visited the bows of our steamer & saw there

Oceanites
oceanicus.

9 or 10 Wilson's Petrels in the corner of our main masts. We

looked for them in vain after this but saw only other birds until

mid afternoon when, as we neared Boston Light, two young

Herring Gulls passed us. After anchoring off the Light for a couple of hours Herring Gulls

to wait for the turn of our tide we entered the new channel at

6 P.M. and reached Swinshead in lower harbor, anchoring there for

the night. At least 25 terns which looked like S. hirundo were

Common
terns in
Boston Harbor

seen inside the Breton Bay flying about low over the water in

three rather compact flocks containing from 2 to 4 birds each. One

flock was seen well inside the harbor & not far from Swinshead.

Allen reported seeing two Scoters but they escaped my notice.

Scoters.

The pilot told me that Seals are seldom observed now in or near the entrance to the harbor, having been well nigh exterminated there within the past few years.

Cashish, Mass.

1911.

August 13

During a visit to the Cashish Pines, made this afternoon in company with the Melvins, I heard a Red-Tailed Hawk. There was no mistaking its peculiar whirring, whining cry repeated a dozen times or more near at hand. Apparently the bird was concealed somewhere in the tops of the tall pines but I failed to get a sight of it. Probably it flew from them unseen for not long after it ceased screaming I heard Crows cawing excitedly, as if meeting something, just beyond a wooded ridge, at some distance away.

Beebe
Graves

In a path way under these pines I found an Ant Lion's pit with an Ant Lion at the bottom.

Ant Lion

Although we searched carefully all about we could not discover another.

On the very brink I saw a King Bird pursue, overtake King Bird & severely harass a Blue Bird with its bill finally descent chipping & coming to the ground with it from a height of 40 Blue Bird feet in an open field. When they separated the Blue Bird advanced little bird although little bird

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Aug. 26

Cedar-birds seen & fully, the sun shining fully through dense haws.

About 30 Cedar-birds spent the greater part of the day within Cedar-birds
sight of our house catching flying insects. During most of the forenoon they catching
were clustered in the top of a dead oak where they kept flying out
in every direction, nearly all of them being often on wing at once.
Through the afternoon they were in leafy ash trees on the roadside near
the Canon where I watched them for some time rather closely. Through
my glass I could see the insects plainly enough. They appeared to
be rather larger than mosquitoes and to have a scaphoid and more active
flight although they did not move very rapidly. All that I could see
was confined to a space only a few yards square about on a level
with the tree tops and just to leeward of them. Within this space they
did not seem to be very numerous yet their numbers suggested no
apparent diminution from the incessant raids of the Cedar-birds among
them. From this I inferred that they kept coming from a distance about as
fast as they were gobbled up. The birds caught them with admirable

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Aug. 26
(No 2.)

Still and calmly, scarcely rising their air. One after another they Cedar birds
would leave the leafy tree top in quick succession until a dozen or more catching
were hovering and darting to & fro in the midst of the loose swarm flying insects

perhaps so near together that as many as four or five might have been
At times they looked like so many big butterflies fluttering in a compact body about a
bush with a single change of form showing. Standing beneath the tree I

could see through my glass their headless prey followed, overtaken and
snatched up. Sometimes a single Cedar bird would capture as many
as six or eight insects during a single flight of this kind. The
total number taken in the course of the afternoon must have been
very large. Yet the swarm never appeared to include more than a
dozen or two at any one time, or to be scattered over an area more
than fifteen or twenty feet square. The birds engaged in their pursuit
and capture with tireless energy and great apparent eagerness. Quite

evidently they were making good use of an exceptionally favorable
opportunity for I have never before known anything like so many
of them to be so closely employed within so limited an area or for
anything like so long a time. What the insects were I cannot
say. Their flight resembled that of house flies but they looked too
small for that. They may well have been Lygus or Chrysomelids.

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept 1

Sunny, warm & rather breezy with light southerly breeze.

On August 30 I saw three Milkweed Butterflies flying southward high in air. To day they were unmistakably migrating in the same direction and in considerable numbers but necessarily singly & so widely separated that I did not ever have two in sight at once. Some passed just over the tops of the taller trees, others at a height of fully 100 yards, the latter looking exceedingly like birds. All went straight down the valley towards the Dorr-estate lake to sight in the distance. Just after sunset I noticed that those which continued coming from the north stopped at the line of tall oak trees bordering on the road and went to roost there on the under side of leaves near the tops of those trees. I saw a dozen or more arrive and settle thus in the course of a few minutes. One that I noticed earlier in the day was from a clump fixed to an elevation of about 200 feet & then started southward mounting upward in a spiral curve precisely as a bird might have done. The flight continued all through the day.

Southern
migration of
Milkweed
Butterflies

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 1
(no 2)

Just before midnight I heard Woodpeckers in very unusual numbers creeping in the star-lit hours overhead. The flight continued unabated for at least half an hour later or as long as I remained awake. Heretofore this season I have heard only a very few birds passing Southwood at night. Among them have been several Wilson's Thrushes giving the night call.

Heavy nocturnal
flight of
woodpeckers.

Promptly with the coming of autumn this morning the Blue Jays have begun screaming everywhere throughout the Glendale woods. Before this I have heard them only occasionally & sparingly.

Jays begin
screaming

Sept

The Picturing Hylas, too, began their continued calling everywhere to-day. I heard them first only two days ago.

Hylas calling

Sept 2

About 8 a. m. I saw a very large Red-tailed Hawk, evidently a ♀, soaring majestically, high in air, over the house. As it drifted off Southwood it was attracted & very persistently harried for several minutes by a small Hawk which looked like a ♂ Sharp-shinned &

Red-tailed
Hawk.

which kept drifting down as from above. The sight of a Red-tailed Hawk is not often witnessed by me anywhere near

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 4

Brilliantly clear with slight cool air & light westerly wind.

From 10 to 11 a. m. two Hooded Mergansers were almost constantly in song, answering one another, in hawthorn woods at the head of the pond. Contrary to their usual custom in this season they gave as their characteristic note and with just as much vigor, expression and frequency as they would in May or June. Hitherto during the past two weeks I have heard only the low, guttural fee-ee call which one habitually hears in later summer.

Hooded
Merganser in
first song.

Early yesterday morning and this a Red-eyed Vireo was in first song at intervals for half an hour or more in the woods near the house.

Red-eyed
Vireo in
first song.

On the morning of September 2, about ten o'clock, a Black-throated Blue Grosbeak sang at least a dozen of times using the ordinary Spring Song but giving it very emphatically and so freely that it wholly lacked the usual drawing quality

Black
throated Blue
Grosbeak in
first song.

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept 4

(no 2.)

At 3 P.M. as I was walking from the studio to the house I happened to glance upward when I saw, almost directly over me, at an elevation of fully 200 yards, about 40 Night-hawks soaring in circles on set wings, not independently, but in a dense cluster or screen confined within a space which did not seem to exceed twenty yards in width. Around the confines of this limited area they glided smoothly, evenly and rather swiftly, one following another closely and all describing an almost perfect circle unmarred by obvious deflections from the slightly curving course or by upward turns or downward "dips". Their wings were held straight & flat like those of Soaring Hawks, not crossed at the carpal joint as in ordinary flight. As they soared around & around from right to left (for all moved in this direction) they appeared, of course, to be crossing one another's line of flight at the center of the circle as I viewed it, producing a kaleidoscopic effect, although their flight was, as I have said, perfectly ordered & in the same track, or nearly so, thereby the outer rim of the circular space being traversed by any of them. Occasionally a bird would flap its wings once or twice but it usually circled the entire course without

Extraordinary
flight of a
large flock of
Night-hawks

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept 4
(No 3)

doing so and the wing beats were seldom frequent or pronounced enough to be very noticeable or to divert one's mind from the general impression of effortless and exquisitely sweet and graceful soaring which the sight of the sooties, in its entirety, produced. All the while the birds were drifting off towards the south coast before a light north-westerly breeze. They were just passing out of sight beyond the house when I entered it - after watching them for a couple of minutes - to call out some of my friends. Although we all rushed out of its south door not half-a-minute later the Night-hawks had somehow and most mysteriously disappeared during this brief interval. How they could have done so is difficult to understand for we had an unobstructed view of the sky from the horizon to the zenith in the direction in which they were going yet not one of them was again seen. Their behavior on this occasion seems so utterly unlike anything that I have ever before witnessed on the part of any numbers of their kind that I could not believe that they were really Night-hawks until, with the aid of my glass, I had identified them beyond possible doubt.

Remarkable
flight of
Night-hawks

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept 4.

(No 4)

making out almost every detail of characteristic form and coloring including the white spots on the wings. During the entire time that I had them in view no one of them left the closely-compacted flock or flew for a single yard in the customary manner. Their individual movements were most nearly like those of Soaring Hawks although the general effect on my eye and mind of the crowded, revolving, intercrossing members of the entire swarm was exceedingly like that produced by a flock of Hairy Gulls, soaring in company, as they do often do during calm days in late autumn, high in air over the country lying between Charles River & Fresh Pond.

Just why all these Night-hawks should have been indulging in so remarkable a performance at this time & place is difficult to comprehend.

If, as seems most probable, they were migrating it seems strange that they should have chosen to do so in this peculiar way and during the early afternoon of a brilliantly clear day. Perhaps they

were engaged in reconnaissance in quest of distant landmarks but the fact that they were all the while below the crests of the surrounding mountains & not apparently trying to rise above them (they seemed to keep to the same elevation while I watched them) would seem to disprove such an inference.

Remarkable

flight of
Night-hawks

Glendale, Mass.

1911,
Sept 5

Brilliantly clear and delightfully cool with fresh westerly wind.

There was no doubt the same large Red-Tailed Hawk noted on Sept. 2nd passed low over my head this morning flying heavily and pursued by an irate mob of clamoring crows. On this occasion I had a good view of its underparts which were dingy white with dark mottling, showing it to be an immature bird. It looked almost as big as a Fish Hawk for which, indeed, I at first mistake it despite the fact that it issued directly from dense woods - at the rear of the Studio. Its heavy, labored flight was sufficiently accounted for by the prey it bore in its talons, carrying it ^{up}grasped in both feet, apparently, and held well below the body. This was evidently some mammal of fully ten times of a half-grown Cottontail Rabbit & I thought at first that it was a young Roadrunner.

Red-Tailed
Hawk with
prey

At frequent intervals through the cotton forest I heard the full & perfectly normal song of a Blue-Throated Blue Warbler near as loud as I saw working under the hemlocks at the rear of the Studio. There were periods, indeed, when this bird sang quite as often & freely as one is likely to hear that species in many of June

Blue-Throated
Blue Warbler
in full song
for hours.

Stockbridge, Mass.

1911.

Sept 5
(Sun)

During the afternoon, spent on the golf links at Stockbridge,
I saw Night-hawks passing back and forth on the links, (4) (3) & (1) going
northward, (10) flying straight southward, all moving in the usual
desultory manner at a height of fifty or sixty feet. It was cloudy &
calm on the town.

Night-hawks

On the banks of the pretty little river that winds through the
meadows near the village D. C. French & I found a number of
birds. Most interesting of these were two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks which
kept close together in a willow and apparently were a mated pair for
the ♀ looked like an old bird and the ♂ was unquestionably fully adult
having a beautiful rusty breast and black wings & tail although the black
of his head & back was partly concealed by a pronounced wash of
rusty brown as is always the case with birds of his age & sex
in autumn. There were also 3 very Kingfishers, at least two
Winter Wrenches and three Phoebe's, a Hooded Merganser and a number
of Robin & Cedar Birds in the trees bordering the stream.

A pair of
adult

Rose-breasted
Grosbeaks.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 8

Cloudy & cool with clear easterly wind. Day cool but bright.

Two Wilson's

Black-caps

seen in

our Garden.

In our Garden this morning I found, ~~this morning~~, in a
thicket in the jungle, a ♂ Wilson's Black-cap having a nearly full
black cap. It chirped so much like a Maryland Yellow-throat that had
I not been so plainly, within a few yards, I should have been in doubt
quite confidently as a representation of that species. Not long before
sunset I heard again their Yellow-throat-like chirp and soon traced it
to a black-capped Wilson's prothonotary, he doubtless the same bird seen earlier
in the day but now accompanied by a ♀ with a plain olive green
crown & bright yellow underparts. The two were at first among
some sunflower plants in the flower garden but they soon flew up
into a gray birch where they joined two Black-bellied Prothonotaries & an adult ♂
Redstart with which they spent the next fifteen or twenty minutes,
actively foraging for food in their usual characteristic manner. It was

Black-bellied

&

Redstart.

easy to distinguish them from the others by their short, jerky, up-and-down
flutters on wing often without flying or on the under side of the wings
and by the peculiar way in which they lifted & depressed their long bills.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 20

Clear and very warm with light westerly wind.

I have been here most of the time (but not continuously) since September 12th, living at the cabin on Bald's Hill.

Small birds of every kind have been there for for the most part exceedingly scarce but there were lots of them on the morning of the 16th when, in the woods at the east end of the Hill, I saw a Black-throated Blue Warbler (♂), a pair of Redstarts (the ♂ adult) a ♀ Wisconsin Black-cap and several Wilson Blackcap. Black-jacks besides other warblers not definitely identified.

Small birds
very scarce

Good flight
on 16th

All these must have come from the north during the preceding night for the day before was a peculiarly bird-less one. But the night just mentioned was cloudy & misty with heavy rain falling most of the time. The rain began about 3 P. M. on the 15th and was accompanied by fresh south easterly wind which makes the air from easterly although the temperature was not low.

Migration
during rainy
misty nights

Cum gratia, 1888

1916.

Sept. 20

(No 2)

A second and later flight of northern sand
warblers around last night which was calm, warm and
clear although foggy along this river valley. Most of
these birds were Black-bellied. In company with
four or five of them in white pine woods on the
crest of a ridge Smith O. Dexter & I found a
Western Palm Warbler this afternoon. It behaved
very oddly, keeping 30 or 40 feet above the ground near
the tops of the pines and not over tapping its tail
during the entire time (certainly two minutes) that we had
it under observation. Nevertheless I feel sure that our
identification was correct for we both made out all its
characteristics of color & marking except the yellow on
the corners & then Dexter saw although I did not.
It certainly had no yellow on the under parts except
on the tail-coverts & perhaps on abdomen, also.

More

migrants

at home

Western

Palm

Warbler

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Sept 22

Flickers when on wing and about to alight ^{Flight}
in a tree or just after taking flight from it occasionally ^{note of} ~~Flies~~ ^{Flies}
utter a peculiar low rolling call very unlike any
of their other notes. Hearing this now on hand in
the busy pasture this evening when the bird was
still I was struck, for the first time I believe,
by its resemblance to the cough of a horse. It
seemed indeed to have very nearly the same
quality and expression although it was, of course,
very much louder and fainter. The bird was
within a few yards of me when making it.

No one hereabouts has seen a Deer for a month ^{Deer}
of course we have any tracks been seen of course
until to-day when I found those of a medium sized
doe on Ball's Hill and those of a small fawn
in the wood land leading from Beach Field to Riverside

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 24

Although I have been living at Ball's Hill continuously since Sept. 12th I have not seen a single Menck as yet nor a sign of one anywhere along the river. About a week ago I heard on two successive nights an horn or two often make a single heavy splash in the river which nearly has been made by a Menck but which I was more inclined to refer to an Otter. At eleven o'clock to night, just after I had gone to bed, and for half an hour later, soon arrived which I fully believe to have been an Otter was splashing & plunging in the water at intervals directly in front of the cabin making as much noise as a large dog similarly employed. The night was warm & rather breezy. I listened in vain for the characteristic whistle heard from the Otter here last year. George M. Allen tells me that he has a note of an Otter killed in this river in Belknap county last spring.

Scout
Menck

Otter

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 26

As usual the shed left out the 7 o'clock has been
fragmented all summer by lots of the same winter-
species which I have found them over here & beyond the
place fourteen years ago. They are believed to winter in
Florida. Certainly they appear here earlier than in
spring and disappear early in autumn. The dates of
their arrival and departure this year are as follows:-

May 4. Then in the shed left. (From June April 26 when it was
last noted by me.)

" 5. Six in the left all banded together

" 6 " " " " " "

" 7 " " " " " "

" 9 Twelve " " " " " "

June 16 Eighteen " " " , all apparently adult.

Sept. 13 Eight " " "

" 23. Then " " "

" 25 One " " "

" 26 None could be found anywhere in the left to-day.

If the one found there yesterday really migrated last night
he chose a peculiarly unfavorable time for such a journey
for a heavy thunder storm which began at 5 P.M.
was followed by almost continuous rain lasting well
after daylight this morning.

Note in
shed left.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 3

Clear & warm with light easterly to southerly winds.

Maple swamps ablaze with red & hickories splendid American
with old-gold foliage. - Both apparently at their best to-day coloring

Saw three flocks of Black Ducks migrating, all Black
flying from Ball's Hill towards W. S. W. The first Ducks
flock passed low down at 6 A. M. & contained 12 birds migrating
The second flock, also flying low, passed at 11.45 A. M.
and comprised about 25 birds. The third flock passed
at 5 P. M. & contained 14 birds which were moving in
V-shaped formation with lead & almost as high in
air as Geese habitually fly when on migration.
It is long since I have seen so many Black Ducks
here in the course of a single day.

Two Pair-billed Grebes were swimming in the Pond Hill
river in company opposite the cabins at 7 A. M. I
saw one or both several times later in the day.

Pond Hill
Grebes

Cum gratia, Mass.

1911.

(Oct 3
(Wed))

a little higher up the river. As I was watching one of them just before sunset it took wing rising out of the water against a light barometer with out much apparent difficulty & flying about 100 yards before dropping into the river again. It could not be seen at the time & there was nothing visible anywhere to cause it alarm. As I concluded that it must have flown nearly across it was in haste to reach the place where it alighted.

Heard two Screech Owls in the belt of willows & maples on the river bank opposite Port Island just as twilight was falling. One uttered dozens of times a peculiar drawing, rather hoarse er-ē or ah-ē very cat-like in quality. After awhile it began uttering the usual screaming wailing cry which the other answered in similar tones occasionally varying to the wailing cry.

Pied-billed
Grebe rises
on wing

Screech
Owl,
on will
peculiar
note.

Concord, Mass.

1911.
Oct. 3
(p. 3)

As I was paddling down river after sunset
this evening I saw two Deer standing at the edge
of the water in the meadows opposite Black Island.
At first they did not appear to notice me but when
I got within ten yards they began to gaze at me
intently & soon after wards backed off, throwing up their
white flags on each hand. but not showing much alarm.
Both were close one large, the other rather small.

On the morning of Sept. 29 I saw what were doubtless
these same two does on Balls Hill, looking down at
me from its crest as I stood near the Cabin. When
I stole up through the trees they disappeared. Their foot
tracks were to be seen all along the path leading past
the Cabin on the morning of the 23 when, to my
surprise, I found a number of their footprints on
the railroad cutbank ~~within~~ within fifty yards of

Concord, Mass.

1911.
(Oct. 3)
(1914)

the station at West Bedford. On the day before this
I found tracks on the top of Ball's Hill and in
the forest for the first time this autumn.

When I got home on the 12th Sept. I could not
learn that any one had seen any Deer or tracks
even - for a month or more previously.

During my paddle down river this evening
I saw three Muskrats, the first that have come
under my notice this autumn. Post Fleming
says that they are very scarce in the river
as far as he has been able to learn.

muskrat
2011

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 13

Brilliantly clear with fresh North-west wind.

As I was returning from Davis's Hill to Ball's Hill about half an hour after sunset this evening an Owl of the size of a Partridge (Bubo), started from the big black oak that stands on the edge of the swampy hollow filled with button bushes and after circling over me within 15 feet returned to the oak where it perched ^{for a moment} on a large limb about 20 feet above the ground.

Long eared
Owl seen
in
evening twilight

This was repeated a dozen times or more. Usually the bird came out directly towards me and after circling close around me went back directly into the tree where it always alighted on one of the shorter branches, not more than 20 feet up. Sometimes, however, it flew away from me at first and after crossing an opening beyond the swamp came back over me to the oak, while twice it alighted in a leafless maple on the opposite side of the road from the oak and on the edge of the meadow. Finally it flew out across

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct 13

(No 2.)

The meadows nearly if not quite to the edge of the river
where I lost sight of it in the gathering gloom. Although
it seemed nervous and very restless it was not at all
shy but, on the contrary, evidently quite fearless of man
and apparently curious to make out just what kind of
a being I was. Its repeated returns to the oak indicated
that it had a strong preference for this particular tree
perhaps because of its unusual size or because of its position
on the edge of a more or less wooded swamp. Nevertheless
the bird did not even remain in this tree for more
than a minute or two at a time. It sat rather erect
when perched but in an easy attitude. Frequently it
stretched out its neck & bent its gaze intently earthward
which once it bobbed not only its head, but its body,
also, up & down quite violently three or four times
in rapid succession. During most of the time it

Long-eared
Owl

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Dec. 13

(No 3)

bird called round and showed us our traps but then it crested them for a moment and I saw them outlined distinctly against the sky above the trees. Although they looked rather short for those of a long-eared Owl I have little or no doubt that the bird was a representation of that species. Its flight was slow, easy, graceful, somewhat erratic and, on the whole, not unlike that of a Night Hawk although at times suggesting that of a big mouse. Flapping its broad wings a few times it would glide without further effort for twenty or thirty yards before beating them again, inclining now to the right, now to the left and often describing circles of about 100 yards in circumference. More than once I thought it might be looking for prey which thus engaged.

Long-eared
Owl.

Twice I heard a low, guttural cry mid way between a grunt & a dog-like bark which seemed to come from it as it was on long but which I could not be sure it uttered.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 20

The Autumn coloring has been exceptionally fine this year but its glory is now past or nearly so. The maple foliage was dead a week or more ago; that of the oaks has faded although most of the leaves still cling to the trees. The barberry vegetation bordering the river has been cleared & blackened by frost. But the river meadows were attention here of bright & brown and the upland fields continue vivid green.

Autumn
coloring

For several years past the numerous dense-folaged bordering young white pines that I planted in Pine Park about 1897 have furnished a congenial roosting place for birds of several kinds especially Blue Jays, Robins, Sparrows, Chickadees and Parulae. And coming & this they were abun with Juncos flitting among the upper branches & calling chup, chup to one another on every hand. They kept coming in singly or in little flocks from neighboring fields and scattered widely over the

Bird roosts
in pine
plantation

Juncos
roosting in
pines

1911.

Oct 20

(No 2)

Cassard, Kans.

greater part of the population as there I barely noticed
mean there are in any one ten. There were many White-
throated Sparrows roosting in these pines a week or so ago. White-throated Sparrows
roosting in
pines

As I was about to leave Pine Park this evening
I heard a Great Blue Heron calling in the distance
towards the north. Its cries grew more and more
distinct until at length I saw the majestic bird
high in air coming directly over me winging its way
straight southward. It kept on until out of sight
passing over the Great Meadows without changing its
course in the least or lowering its flight perceptibly.
At about a very rapid interval it uttered its
hoars, roosting haute giving it at least over very
from a few birds. Evidently it was migrating &
bound for some eastern distant place. Most of the
Blue Herons that I have seen at this season have similarly

White-throated
Sparrows
roosting in
pines

Great Blue
Heron
migrating
southward
at Cassard

Concord, Mass.

1911.

(Oct 20)

(No 3)

at evening along exactly the same "fly line" is directly over Pine Pond. In August they are never given to whisper across and to alighting in the meadows to rest or feed. (This bird was noted at 5.20 P.M.)

About 10 a.m. I saw a solitary Cedar bird (the only one observed thus far this month), perched in the top of an elm in Burdett's field. It kept calling tee-ee but no others joined or answered it.

A solitary
Cedar bird.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 22

Cloudy and somewhat foggy with fine rain at intervals & little or no wind. Day warm and humid. For the past six days the weather has been continuously cloudy with strong N.E. wind and intermittent rain.

As H. W. Henshaw and I were standing at the edge of the river near Benson's House about eleven o'clock this forenoon we heard with perfect distinctness, repeated a dozen times or more the shrill, squeaking flight call of a Golden Plover which, as indicated by the sound, was evidently flying in a great circle over Great Meadows. Some ten minutes later we heard it again perhaps a score of times as we were at the cabin when the bird appeared to float over our heads and then to go off out of hearing to the south-west. Once or twice it seemed to be within two hundred yards but the mist was so dense that we failed to get a sight of it. I judged by the quality of its voice that it was a young bird or "Poke Belly"

Covered, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 25

Clear with light southerly wind. The whole country
white with snowfall and shallow frosts skinned over at
sunrise this morning but most of the day was warm.

As H. W. Henshaw & I were crossing the river this
morning we saw a large female Marsh Hawk alight
on a pole which the haymakers had left standing erect
in the meadows opposite Boon's Hill, its top fully
twelve feet above the ground. The bird closed its
wings and remained perched on the pole for at least
a minute, sitting rather erect. When it took flight
again it began beating the meadows in the usual
characteristic way. This is the only instance
that I recall when I have ever known a
Marsh Hawk to alight at anything other than
a height above the surface of the ground.

Marsh Hawk
perched on
pole at
Cave 12 ft.
above meadow

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 30

Clear calm & deliciously warm with little or no wind.
Last night cool and smoky with some frost at dawn this morn'g.

It must have been twelve or fifteen years ago and rather late in October or early in November that I saw and heard a bird then and still unknown to me, flying high in air over Great Meadows, calling whit, whit very like a House Flycatcher. Since then I have repeatedly seen and heard others of the same kind, invariably in this part of Concord, always on wing, nearly always in late afternoon and, with but one exception, singly. About two weeks ago (I neglected to note the date) I heard this call early one morning at Balls Hill, evidently coming from high in air overhead but I failed to catch sight of its author on that occasion. I heard it again this morning (about 6 o'clock) as I was standing in front of ones farm house. The next instant I saw the bird and to much gratification

I note for the second time that Acridothera & for an Acridothera this year a Myiophobus bird possibly a Wheat can.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 30

(No 2.)

than ever before for it passed directly over me slightly What was it?
below the tops of our tallest trees & then S. W. over an open
field. It looked about the size and shape of a swan
flourishing and flew not under one, in long, deep undulations,
rising and falling rhythmically. During the second or two
that I had it in good view I could see that its tail was
very widely spread & apparently cut off rather grossly at
the end. Just before & after this it seemed to be closed.
I thought it showed a good deal of white but could not
be sure of this from the bird's general coloring for it
was against a white-blue sky abso- with sunlight.
It called whit, whit at short intervals and once interpolated
between these calls a double note (pif-it) which sounded
exactly like that of our Tit Lark. It is possible of
course that the latter sound may have been made by
a Tit Lark but it seemed to come directly from the

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Oct 30

(No 3)

bird I was watching & I could see no other in the air. *What was*

The only occasion when I have noted this mysterious bird at any season other than autumn was on March 28, 1911 when I heard the whist call of one which seemed to be flying over the orchard at Ten Falm, but which I failed to get sight of. Hitherto I have been utterly at a loss to even conjecture what the creature can be but this morning it suddenly occurred to me that the one I had just seen & heard might have been a whist car. It did not strike of it at the moment but several minutes later. What especially suggested the thought was the bird's manner of flight and of forming out its short square tail. I have repeatedly seen whistles in England but in most instances through car windows & I cannot recall ever hearing this note. The fact that the birds meet with here have always occurred briefly would support the whist-car theory I think.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 31

A mild, humid day, for the most part cloudy with fresh S. W. wind and a few light showers.

In the early morning when the sun was striving to shine
dimly through their clouds and there was not a breath of wind
I witnessed a rather remarkable and very unmistakable
migration of Crow Blackbirds and Robins. Shortly before 8
o'clock as I was standing near our barn I heard a confused
mudgley of Blackbird voices in the distance towards the north-east.
I presently saw the birds afar off and very high in air (certainly
not less than 1000 feet) coming directly towards me and flying
- as is their wont when on migration - with exacting straightness
and directness and without trace of the undulating curves
which are so characteristic of their ordinary flight. The flock
was by far the largest that I have ever beheld. There must
have been fully 1000 birds & they literally crowded at
least an acre of sky affording a truly inspiring sight as

Remarkable
dimmed
migration of
Robins &
Crow Blackbirds

Canaan, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 31

(No. 2)

they swept directly overhead, heading straight for the South coast and quickly disappearing in the distance over Punkatasset Hill.

I had no more than lost sight of them when another flock, containing about 150 birds and pursuing the same course at about the same elevation, followed them. To be followed in turn only a minute or two later by a flock of about 50 Robins which were almost equally high in air & similarly bound for the Southward.

About 8.30 a.m., when at Balls Hill, I saw two more flocks of Robins, one containing 39, the other 23 birds.

The smaller flock following the larger so closely that both were in sight at the same time. All the Robins, unlike the Blackbirds, were moving due south, not South-west.

All, too, were high and air and without question

forming a regular & extended migration. Wherever I see them or two Crow Blackbirds thus engaged, at this season, it nearly if not always happens in the early morning.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Dec. 10

Sunny but hazy, calm, warm (53° at noon), an Indian summer day.

Birds in
Fresh Pond.

Spent most of the forenoon (10.30-12.30) at Fresh Pond. It has been frequented by an exceptional number and variety of water fowl for a month past and it was swarming with them to-day.

We passed them to unusual advantage in the bright sunlight on water wholly untroubled by wind but more or less disturbed by their movements.

The Gulls were by far the most numerous. I have Herring
Gulls. never before seen any thing like so many in Fresh Pond at any one time. Floating over a yard or two apart they covered some fifteen or twenty acres of water near the center of the pond, presenting a beautiful appearance and looking, at a distance, like so many lumps of snow in. Mr. Barrett

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Dec. 10
(1902)

who was with me thought that there were fully
2500 in the cove at our time and I agreed with
him. When he attempted to count them roughly
I got something like 2400. Practically all were
Herring Gulls and of these almost if not given 90%
were adult birds. The only other species which
we were able to make out satisfactorily was the
Green Black-backed Gull of which we had no
less than ten fully adult birds in view at
one time scattered about among the others.

Gulls in
Fresh Pond

Black-backed
Gulls.

There was much less calling than one would have
expected from so many a concourse but every minute
or two one or another of the Herring Gulls would
give the wild, ringing clear-clear cry. They were
almost continuously arriving from the direction of
Boston in scattered flocks.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Dec. 10
(No 3)

About the outskirts of the great bed of Geese (but Ducks in
First Pond
seldom mingling with them) and elsewhere in the pond
were Ducks of several kind, mostly Black Ducks
which, in clustering flocks, were sleeping with their
heads buried in their feathers, looking like so many
blocks of wood. I counted just 100 of them
but there were doubtless at least 15 or 20 more
than that number which I failed to notice.

Most of them kept well out in the pond or died
also two flocks of Gooseanders containing respectively
14 and 16 birds of which about one half were
drakes in full nuptial plumage.

There was a solitary Canada Goose in
one of the flocks of Black Ducks and also, for
a time, a drake Bald Pate which later
appeared in "Horse Neck".

Cambridge, Mass

1911.

Dec. 10
(no 4)

Not far from there, near where the fountain now
is at the head of "Hotel Lake", were about a dozen
birds which seemed more confident than the rest
and inclined more to feeding. Of these four were
Lesser Scaups (all in the plumage of the ♀ and positively
identified) which dove every few seconds without
moving far from the shore that. Three Baldpates (a
♀ or juv ♂ and two old drakes) ranged about much
more widely swimming lightly and smoothly with
the tips of their tails habitually pointing downward and
almost touching the water. Very graceful and
attractive birds they were reminding me strongly of
Hooded Ducks as they meandered about over the calm
surface of the cove scarce dipping it although
they moved swiftly and incessantly to and fro.

Ducks in
Fresh Pond

Lesser Scaups

Baldpates

I saw one with what looked like a piece of old grass in its bill

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Dec. 10
(no 5)

Keeping sometimes with the Scaups but often apart Golden eyes
by themselves were two Golden-eyes in ♀ plumage.

They, too, were occasionally. I thought I saw a
bunch of four or six Ducks of this species slightly further
out when I first reached the pond but the two
were all that we could find afterwards.

The great confusion of birds near the middle of the
pond was disturbed in an interesting manner early in
the forenoon by a man by a man who began beating
on the rail fence at the water's edge with his cane.

Almost the first blow he gave caused some of the birds
nearest him to take flight. They were quickly followed
by others and the alarm soon became general. Hardly
practically every bird was on wing even the Canada
Geese and the Mergansers leaving the water with
the rest. It was then a truly impressive sight such

Impression
uprising of
alarmed
waterfowl

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Dec. 10
(No 6)

as I have never before witnessed anywhere in the neighborhood of Cambridge. The two thousand or more Gulls wheeling and soaring one hundred feet or more in air looked like a vast cloud of gigantic, swirling mass-flocks. Above them Black Ducks in harrow-shaped formations were cutting dark lines across the pale blue sky. Below them Geese and a few odd Black Ducks skimming to and fro close over the water. The commotion lasted in all perhaps ten minutes at the close of which nearly all the birds settled again nearer than before to the center of the pond and quiet was restored.

Clouds of
desultory
mass-flocks
swirling over
First Pond

Besides the water fowl we saw a Sparrow Hawk flying over Humboldt Point, a few Sparrows in some bushes near the shore and scattered Crows in various places. Kinglets (P. satrapa), Chickadees & a Flicker were heard.



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